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African Violet Magazine

SURPLUS
SEP 11

SEPTEMBER 1951 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 1

LACY GIRL $3.25 (see picture above)

This is the first of a new series of fancy varieties, and is sure to win prizes for you in any show. Darkest blue-violet giant-sized flowers with heavily fringed and fuzzy rick-rack type margins on the petal edges. Never before has any variety been the BEST SELLER in my catalog during the same season it was introduced -- really a most unusual record, but then, it's a most unusual variety!

HERE'S THE NEWEST IN SAINTPAULIAS . . .

One of the greatest thrills of collecting African Violets comes from the addition of an exceptionally choice variety.
We are very proud to offer these outstanding introductions by Ulery's of Ohio . . . the result of years of cross hybridization! My sister and I selected these exquisite creations as the BEST of many new ones displayed by Ulery's at the African Violet Convention held in Dayton in 1951. They're magnificient! Buy as many as you can afford!

PAINTED GIRL $2.75

White flower with a heavy band of bright orchid at the petal edges, sometimes extending to the center of the flower. Profuse bloomer. A lively pattern and sure to attract excited comments from your neighbors.

VELVET GIRL $3.00

Captivating pansy-like flowers. Lower petals mostly rich orchid in tone with a permanent red-garnet edging at the outside tips. Two upper petals solid velvety dark red-garnet which doesn't fade! Something new in the bi-color class.

ULERY'S BLUE WONDER $3.00

A really striking marbleized flower in white and brilliant marine blue, more intense in the center. Grow it in your sunniest window for sharpest coloration and design. Great opportunities to win the title of HEAVIEST BLOOMER with this one. Big flowers. Light green foliage, white stems, clean cut finish.

BLUE HEIRESS $3.00

Brilliant blue DuPont seedling with heavily scalloped "girl-type" foliage and superior habits. Giant sized flowers of "supreme" substance and heavy stalks. Profuse bloomer with lots of color. Grows precisely, to great size. Color between Sailor Girl and Neptune.

FOR THE TRUE FANCIER

Prize-Winning NEW Double Varieties

AZURE BEAUTY (white and blue)

ORCHID SUNSET (dark orchid-wine)

SAILOR'S DELIGHT (double Sailor Girl)

$3.25 each 2/$6.25 3/$9.00

Extra large flowers of beautiful coloring which open up widely and every blossom is sure to mature. Read more about this new double-flowering strain of Ulery's in my Fall catalog. Pictured too! Our packing methods keep the plant roots moist, keeps the flowers in good condition so you won't be disappointed. BUT . . . it gets cold here in Michigan quicker in the winter time, better hustle in your catalog inquiry or maybe your order???

A SAD EXPERIENCE

Remember last December? When the railroad strike tied up all parcel post? We mailed 800 plants just the day before, every one froze too. Our customers were glad they ordered from us, because WE STOOD THE WHOLE LOSS OURSELVES . . . sent them brand new fresh plants first thing this Spring at no cost. Makes for satisfied repeat customers, which are the basis of our business.

We positively mean our guarantee of "YOU BE THE JUDGE, we're anxious to please!" This year on late orders, shall I hold your order till Spring or return your money? We do not ship during winter months. For a lovelier window garden this fall, write me today!

MONEY SAVING PRICE REDUCTIONS EFFECTIVE NOW

It looked as tho we might have too many Spring 1951 catalogs so we sent them to A. V. M. Members in July. The color of ink used "wine-red" is EXACTLY THE SAME COLOR as "The Ohio Giant" @ $2.50, listed in Fall 1951 catalog. (THE OHIO GIANT is the same variety as Ulery's Orchid Velvet). "THE OHIO GIANT" is the darkest loudest wine-orchid we've ever sold! Gigantic flowers of heaviest substance, 6 to 8 buds. Round furry leaves, thick stems. If you can't locate the Spring catalog, remember our Fall 1951 catalog SAVES YOU MONEY — as follows:

Blue Eyed Beauty	NOW $2.50
Blue Warrior	NOW $1.25
Lady Geneva	NOW $2.00
Lavender Beauty	NOW $2.25
Orchid Wonder	NOW $2.50
Snow Prince	NOW $2.75
Violet Beauty	NOW $2.25
White Girl	NOW $2.50

ALL OUR PRICES ARE POSTPAID IF YOU BUY ONE PLANT OR A DOZEN!

OUR CATALOG is FREE

Write today or order direct from this page, we'll include a copy in your package. You'll notice a lot of older varieties are discontinued because the newer kinds are much nicer. Why not be one of our customers, and ALWAYS get our catalog "ahead of the rush". Earliest orders get biggest plants. Sound business practice forces us to economize by eliminating the non-buyers from our regular mailing list. Don't be left out! If you just order the small "POKON PLANT FOOD" @ 45c postpaid, you'll be one of "our customers" — get our catalog regularly twice a year!

BIG NEWS — We've Moved. Our greenhouse is not full of African Violets yet but we can still take good care of all mail orders you send us.

"African Violets For Beginners and Collectors"

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

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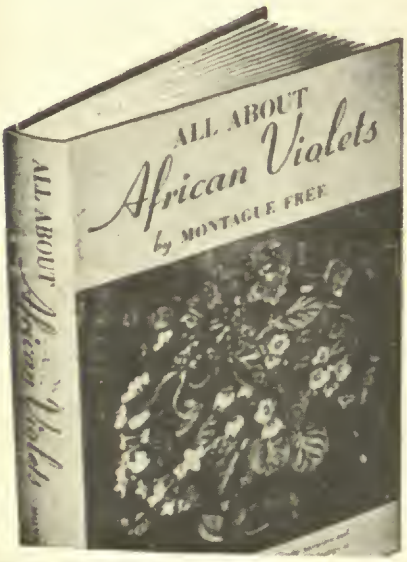
The Most Complete, Most Practical Handbook on African Violets Ever Published



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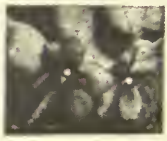
Montague Free's ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SUCCESS WITH SAINTPAULIAS

WITH 111 PHOTOGRAPHS

Specially made to illustrate favorite Varieties and step-by-step culture and propagation

AND 28 FULL-COLOR DRAWINGS



One step in the pollination of Saintpaulias: the removal of anther prior to opening it to get pollen.

At last — the one long awaited, complete and authoritative book on the most popular of all house plants is soon due from the press! Everyone who loves African Violets will welcome this lavishly illustrated "how-to" book explaining every step of their culture and propagation.

Here is everything you want to know about Saintpaulias - proper growing conditions, soils, fertilizers, potting, watering, propagation, combating pests and diseases, growing for exhibition, greenhouse culture, and much more.

Montague Free, the author of this new book, was for 25 years Horticulturist for the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and is now staff Horticulturist for The Home Garden Magazine. Many years of experience in growing and studying African Violets have given him an unequalled understanding of the plant and its requirements. He covers every step for you in simple, non-technical style. The magnificent series of 111 specially-made photographs plus 28 full-color drawings of characteristic flowers and leaves, showing the wide variations, leave no detail to the imagination.

Look at All the Useful and Detailed Information This Book Gives You!

WHAT ARE AFRICAN VIOLETS
Early Development; Saintpaulia Companions

GROWING CONDITIONS
Temperature and Humidity; How to Make the Air Humid; Terrariums for Saintpaulias

SOILS
How to Make a Good Mixture; Compost and How to Make It; Importance of Soil Sterilization

Removing an offset from a mature plant with a sharp knife. Offset may be rooted and potted later. If not removed now, it will become a crown later and may be separated by true division.

FERTILIZERS
Food in Liquid Form; Liquid Manure from Chemicals; Compensating for Food Deficiencies. Growing in Nutrient Solutions

POTS & POTTING
Porous vs. Impervious Pots. Art of Potting. Repotting Mature Plants; Saintpaulias in a "Strawberry Jar".

TROUBLE: AVOIDANCE AND CURE
Petiola Rot; Disease Organisms; Nematodes; Mildew; Mites; Selevation of the Soil; Mealybugs; Aphids or Plant Lice; Thrips; Springtails; Black Gnats or "Black Flies".

GENERAL CARE: GROWING FOR EXHIBITION
Outdoors or Indoors for Summer? Pruning; Single or Multiple Crowns? Grooming Plants for Exhibition

ADDING TO YOUR COLLECTION
Patented Plants

GREENHOUSE CULTURE
Potting Bench and Soil Containers; Propagation Space; Shading; Ventilation; Humidity.

PROPAGATION
Leaf Cuttings; Stem Cuttings of Offsets; Division; Seeds.

SPECIES AND VARIETIES OF SAINTPAULIA
Classification by Group; Beginner's Dozen; Similar and Synonymous Varieties; Fifty-two for Collectors; Notes on Additional Varieties; Explanation of Technical Terms; Pronouncing Guide etc.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN A STRAWBERRY JAR four months after planting. At the top: Blue Boy, with Double Blue Boy barely visible at left. Center: left, Red-head Supreme; above hand, Lady Geneva; variegated leaf, My Lady Sue. Lower Right, Ruffles.

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The demand for Montague Free's "All About African Violets" will be great indeed. Copies will be ready to ship in a few weeks, and we urge that you reserve yours without delay. Reservations will be filled in the order of their receipt. You need send no money now. When the book arrives read it a week without obligation and if not thoroughly delighted, return it and pay nothing. Otherwise remit the low price of only $3.50, plus a few cents postage. Mail the coupon now. American Garden Guild, Inc., Garden City, New York.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

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Presenting

● **BRUSSELS SPROUTS** -
Every collector will want this plant, regarded as the most unusual of African Violets by visitors at the N.A.V.C. in Dayton. The double flowers are leafy in texture, deeply serrated and varying from greenish-white to medium blue in color. This is the "Parrot Tulip" of the Saintpaulia family. Limited supply on first introduction. $2.50

● **APOLLO** - Handsome light blue flowers are borne on sturdy stems. The semi-double blooms resemble singles but have a small rosette of petals surrounding the yellow eye. Most important, the flowers do not drop. $2.50

● **FISCHER'S SINGLES** - Snow Queen $1.00, Blue Moon $1.00, Giant Red Lavender and Light Blue $1.00, Giant Rose Pink $1.50

● **PETITE** - Outstanding light blue double with clusters of small perfectly formed blooms. Red coloration on underside of leaves adds particular distinction. $2.00

● **TEAR DROP** - A dainty variety with small semi-double baby blue blooms. Flowering is profuse and well grown plants are a mass of bloom. $2.50

● **STANDARD FRINGETTES** - The ever popular Fringettes are still available in the lovely selection of colors. Prices $1.50 and $2.00
Set of 6 for $8.00

For complete descriptions of our entire stock, write for free catalogue. All plants sent parcel post. Add 10c per plant mailing for orders under $5.00. Special Delivery add 25c. Shipments made to Mid-November. Please send money order or check with all orders.

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New **African Violets**

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GENEVA RAINBOW—A real burgundy red with sparkling white contrasting border. Lovely companion to Lady Geneva.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

A recent letter from Mrs. Theodore Greer, 1822 Arapahoe St., Golden Colo., asks for some help in contacting interested African violet people in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. Mrs. Greer is a Regional Councilor and wants to increase our membership in this area. Any help will be appreciated. Please drop her a card with suggestions and names you may have. Many thanks!

Hope that you have had a good "violet" summer.

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

Local Affiliated Societies

Many members have been inquiring about affiliation of Local Clubs with the National Society, and now the plans are all made. We hope you will approve.

To be eligible for such affiliation at least 25% of the Local Club's members must belong to the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

The Club's By-Laws must be approved by the Society.

The dues are $2.50 a year.

The benefits of affiliation are:

1. The Club is entitled to regular membership privileges -- one voting delegate at our Annual Meeting.
2. One magazine will be mailed to the club.
3. The Club's officers will be listed annually in our Member's Handbook.
4. Awards for the Club's African Violet Shows will be available when specifications made by the award committee are complied with.
5. Colored transparencies for program will be available -- Local Club to pay only postage.
6. Books from our library will be available -- Local Club to pay postage.

We are at present working to build up a library of books and of colored transparencies. In the transparencies we hope to have a number of different collections, each suitable for one program. We will have pictures of the new varieties as they are introduced.

These are the ways in which we thought we could be of benefit to you, and of course, as usual, we solicit suggestions. If you have any ideas send them along.

Your editor has done her very best to include in this issue of the magazine all the information of the various meetings at our convention. She has met with great difficulty in obtaining copies of the talks of some of our speakers. She wants you to know that if a talk is missing it is not her fault -- she tried hard to get it. At this time we are of the opinion that it would be well to have recordings made of all meetings at future conventions. We believe the cost would be justified in giving you a full report.

Until December —

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

GREEN BUT NOT GROWING

The Evening Star, Washington, D. C.

(Reprinted with permission)

Vacation-bound neighbors are very conscientious about leaving something for us to remember them by. Sometimes it is a cat whose little way of sharpening his claws on the furniture is not mentioned at the time of transfer. Or it may be a man-eating pekingese, "so small you'd never know he was there"—except for his teeth in your ankle. More often than not, however, these mementoes take the form of much-loved plants with mile-long memoranda as to their care. More African violets needing all but intravenous feedings and psychiatry, more depressed ivy, moribund hydrangeas and listless petunias are being pressed into unwilling hands these days than it is good to think about.

Plants, like all other living things, pine in the absence of familiar faces. Caretakers, with their front-room more like a greenhouse every day, if they have been cordial to their neighbors, have several courses open. Some conscientious souls nail the instruction list to the front door, refuse all week-end invitations and go about endlessly among their charges with the teapot serving as watering-can and fork for hoe. Other reluctant horticulturists of the type who never miss an opportunity to kick a blade of grass set about cold-bloodedly to kill the plants with kindness, watering them so fiercely that the roots rot forthwith. When the owners return the damp soil is exhibited as evidence of oversolicitude. A third means is to set all the unwanted greenery on the window sill and trust to wind and weather. Followers of this school of thought find the plants alternately drowned and parched and generally have to replace the whole gallery with 11th-hour purchases from a nearby florist.

Most people who have been through it start in early spring to weed out from their acquaintanceship all lovers of green and growing things bent on making their apartments into unreasonable facsimiles of parks.

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR

AFRICAN VIOLET DISPLAY

YOU WILL SEE THOUSANDS OF PLANTS IN BLOOM EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR. WHEN YOU ENTER YOU WILL EXCLAIM, AS ALL OUR VISITORS HAVE — "I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!"

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A view of our new display house

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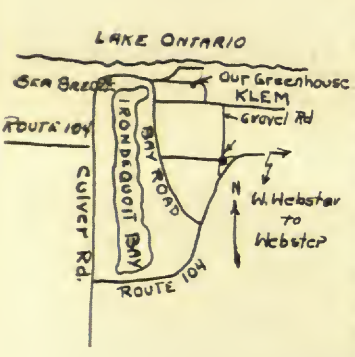

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The Judging School Committee Reports

Ruth Carey, Chairman

The Judging School Committee is very happy to report 136 Certificates issued to members of the Society that took the examination for the qualifying of judges at the Dayton Meeting. We trust that all those taking the examination have by this time received their papers and certificates. We held up sending your papers until the seal which the Society adopted at the Dayton meeting could be made and used on your certificates. We hope this will compensate your long wait.

Any group desiring a judging school should contact the Judging School chairman for details which her committee has worked out.

There were some questions asked in the examination that seemed to be confusing, which we would like to clarify. In question one, about the scale of points, the condition there means a plant that is perfect culturally, (no diseases, no insects, no damaged foliage). A total of 20 points can be given if the plant measures up to these qualifications. But if there are any of these conditions existing, then you will take off points according to the evidence.

Then in question seven, where you were asked to give the definition for condition, that means the physical growth at the time the entry is judged, it can be in good condition or poor condition. See the definition, under definition of terms in your "Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors". We tried to explain as many answers as possible, that were not correct on your papers. Please check in your Members Handbook so you will clear up any incorrect answers, also familiarize yourself with the full contents of the Members Handbook. We could only touch on duties of committees, schedules, show plants and many other points which limited time made it impossible to do, so for your benefit, study all phases.

It has been a pleasure to work on this committee, each one of us have learned along with you, and if there are any questions you would like the committee to help you with, we will be most willing to assist in any way possible.

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MARY MEEDS

BOX 1444 YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

"YELLOW BROWN GIRL"

THIS VARIETY WILL BE READY TO SHIP AFTER OCTOBER 1ST

Yellow Brown Girl has a yellow brownish colored crinkled cup shaped flower. Nice regular girl foliage. This is the only variety of African violet that we know of that has any yellow.

You hobbyists will like this one and if you are hybridizing we can't see how you can afford not to add it to your collection as this variety will produce you some unusual seedlings.

LIMITED SUPPLY SOLD THIS FALL.

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Undivided plants in bloom or about ready to bloom out of 2¼ inch pots $5.00 each, shipped PARCEL POST SPECIAL DELIVERY.

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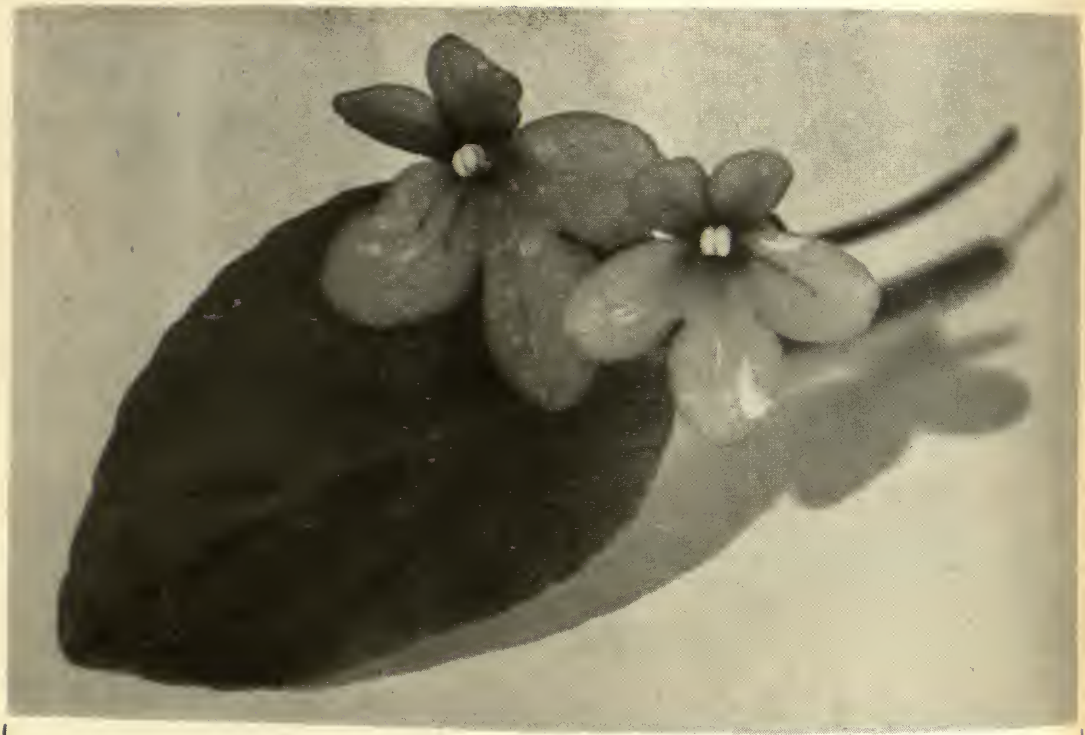

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A MOST UNUSUAL INNOVATION IN THE AFRICAN VIOLET FIELD

NOW BOOKING ORDERS FOR OCTOBER 1ST SHIPMENT $2.25

RUSSWARD

JONESBORO ARKANSAS

Leaf Rot of African Violets

Evan Roberts, Mich.

Leaf rot, Gray-mold Blight, Blossom Blight, and Botrytis Leaf Blight are names given to diseased conditions of African Violet plants that have become infected with a fungus known as Botrytis cinera Pers.

The occurrence of Botrytis cinera Pers. on Saintpaulia ionatha Wedl. was first reported in 1936 by Dr. Otto A Reinking. It was later recorded in detail by G. E. Beck and Dr. J. R. Vaughn (1949) in Phytopathology. This organism has also been noticed on Sinningia (gloxinia) which is related to the African Violet. Chrysanthemum, poinsettias, roses and many other plants are included in the list of host plants.

Usually the disease originates on the leaf stems where they are near the pot rim. However, the infection seems to occur at most any region on the plant. Generally the first symptom is a tiny watery region which may expand and cover a large area. The diseased part gets brown and later black as it ages. When the fungus attacks the flower it seems to start in the throat of the corolla. Its symptoms are a water-soaked appearance of the petals and a premature fading. Under favorable conditions of low light intensity, high humidity and poor ventilation the fungus produces spores on the diseased tissue. Either spores or other parts of the fungus may then drop on healthy leaves and produce a new infection. When leaves are in direct contact with each other, conditions favor the spread from leaf to leaf. This Botrytis may attack many varieties of African Violets. Those having been reported are: Pink Beauty, White Lady, Blue Boy, Blue Girl and Plum.

Control ..... Proper spacing which allows good air circulation and keeps plants from touching each other is one of the best ways to control this disease. Infected parts should be removed from the plants to prevent re-infection from occuring from this possible source. All old flowers and broken leaves should be removed from the vicinity of the plant.

Sterilized potting soil should be used for potting. If leaf cuttings are made they should be placed in a sterilized medium. When plants are handled care should be taken not to break or injure parts. When areas are exposed by injury or by breaking (when dividing etc.) or through removal of diseased areas, dusting with a mixture of ½ Fermate and ½ dusting sulfur has been recommended. Growers should use this mixture on a small scale with caution. Injury can result from the improper use of certain chemical fungicides.

The use of plastic or glazed pots (preferably those with drainage holes in the bottom are recommended.)

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Terra Cotta and Stone Grey

See Article and Pictures, Page 17, September 1950 Magazine.

F. O. B.

TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

The ANNUAL STRUGGLE

By the Editor

Photos by Myrtle Harlan and Eleanor Meyer.

Isn't it wonderful what a little flower can do? There we were at the Dayton Biltmore Hotel, Dayton, Ohio four hundred strong for the purpose of gathering wisdom on our favorite houseplant. With twenty four States and Canada well represented, many old friends were joyously greeting each other and new friendships were being made a mile a minute!

So we start off Thursday morning with school days again . . . with "School Marm" Ruth Carey holding forth in a most efficient manner on the fine points of JEDGING saintpaulias. Assistant "School Marm" Eva Rule was near by. Come to think of it didn't they do a neat plant switch just before the plant identification exam? (Then the maps and diagrams were out of date.) Students Beatrice Fortney (see I have shoes), Galion, Ohio, Inez Bradford, president of the Oak Ridge Tennessee Club, Mrs. John Hall, Cleveland, Mary Sweeney, Nomination Committee Chairman, Xenia, Ohio, Mrs. Leslie Perry, Philadelphia and Mrs. Howard Morris, Drexel Hills, Pennsylvania were a listnin' and a learnin' as were Mrs. C. E. Huber, Tiffin, and Solange Slivka, Fayette, Ohio, Mrs. M. J. Hester, Florence, Alabama, Helen Coleman (who won a show award her first try) Marion, Indiana, Zuelma Simpson, Greenville, Tennessee, Catherine Miller, Harrisburg, and Mrs. W. B. Renshaw, E. McKeesport, Pennsylvania and umpteen other "school boys and girls" that morning.

Saw Dr. Freeman Weiss, Washington, D. C., Annette Hoffman (Hoffmann's Hobby House) and Mrs. H. W. Martin of Omaha, Nebraska . . . Mrs. Martin is president of the Omaha club, Lois Minehan, Binghamton, New York and Vera Osterhaut, Hastings, Nebraska a mindin' their p's and q's as they trip down the line to identify the plants in the exam -- Judging School of course!

This years meeting brought together many good "old friends" made at previous conventions. Among them was the winner of "The Award" on Love Birds at the Philadelphia Meeting last year - Florence Foltz of Lewiston (who 'tis said walked on air and saw stars in the sky that day), and Mrs. Paul Dissinger, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, a violet pioneer who has introduced some nice saintpaulias, Mildred Wilson, Martinsburg, W. Virginia, Ruth Dahnke, vice-president 1952, president of the Kansas City Society and a real enthusiast. Others were Nellie McBride, Pigeon friend from Springfield, Missouri, Cammy Conant and Emily Hodan, Cleveland, Ohio, Nellie Fry, Springfield, Iva Woods, New Wilmington,

and Ruth Rhoda, Oley, Pennsylvania, and Anna Layson, Maysville, Kentucky, quiet and friendly Chairman of the Awards Committee. There was no need to ask if Floyd Johnson was there . . . "Mr. President" for 1952 was everywhere talking to everyone as was our popular commander-in-chief sweet Myrtle Radtke, who is loved by all.

Illinois turned out with a bang -- twenty six members strong!! Wish the space permitted every name . . . but that would be a real big story all by itself. To mention but a few there was Mrs. E. H. Blatter, Elmhurst, Eunice Livingstone, president of the Aurora Society and a fine worker they say, Ruby Jones, Woodstock and from Rockford, Ruth Carlson, Mrs. Allen Rice and Margaret Cedarvale, president of the club there. Two of Elgins able representatives were Constance McBride and Bee Wills, the moving spirit behind two Elgin clubs already. Then Hazel Hurley, president of the Downers Grove Society, Ada Magill, the stately District Councilor from Aurora, also Mrs. Lawrence Davis and Mrs. R. J. Pulver (our first meeting in a drugstore) and Grace Rowe.

Certainly VIOLET conscious these days is the "Windy City." Very delightful at long last to meet Mary Fowkes, president of the Chicago African Violet Society, Mabel Bornemeir, president of the Rose 'Onna Club and Rose Trendler, president of the Elite Club. All three groups had their leaders in Dayton . . . a most gratifying fact and one to be proud of. Nice going Chicago! You will want to know the other Chicago ladies there too - Dorothy Suntog (who can use a camera they say), Bida Robbins, Ann Wideberg, Erna Petrick the lady who grew "them" in strawberry jars, Elnora Kettel, Mary Mayer, Clare Cooper and Bess Greeley (see that L?) . . . all wonderful African violet people. We hope to get to know them all better next spring when the Annual Meeting convenes in Chicago, April 24, 25 and 26 at the Hotel Sherman.

Our Hostess State Ohio was there en masse! So many fine members were on hand to proudly represent their state only a few of this good number can be mentioned. Starting off with Theresa Moeller, president of the Queen City Society and a faithful worker at the registration desk, Mrs. Jim Asmonn, Mrs. Hugh Gregg and Mrs. A. B. Cooper, Cincinnati was there and did it's self proud. A few other Ohioans were Mrs. N. S. Ireland, Wilmington, Mrs. Harry Henton, Canfield, Mrs. Edna Holtz, Tiffin, Mrs. Ernest Caldwell, Columbus and Mrs. Hubert Robinson, Granville. Last a special thank you to Bess Hardy for the radio publicity she so generously arranged with a goodly number of members participating.

Michigan comes into the picture now with Evan Roberts, (Bronze Medal Award for 1951), Michigan State College, leading the parade. Evan gave us a fine look into the past of our beloved saintpaulias at the Banquet Meeting that was really news to us. Also from E. Lansing was Lorna Anderson, a real helper with Magazine stories. From Battle Creek was Phyllis Ferrall, Regional Councilor who presided so graciously at the luncheon meeting Friday, attractive Mazie Johnson, Pontiac, remembered from way back Cincinnati 1949 and Mabel Coleman of Royal Oaks - a most pleasant lady. Then Detroit had Dorothy Reaume who can "take care of herself in any crowd," Jennie Spoutz vivacious as ever, and West Side Greenhouses Marie Marks whose lovely plants were missed this year. For a long time we have wanted to meet Rosa Peters . . . this year our want was answered. Rosa was on hand for the Dayton festivities. Didn't those plants have beautiful foliage?

There was no dearth of men at this meeting. A few of the active participants who contributed so much to making this a most successful get-to-gether were Paul Rockelman (Fischer's Greenhouses) Linwood, New Jersey, who 'tis said all the members fell in love with, the Rev. Mr. Dale Ulery and Paul Slough (Ulery's Greenhouses) Springfield, Ohio . . . these two gentlemen really have done things with saintpaulias . . . Dr. Floyd Smith, Beltsville, Maryland, Max Nagler (Fair Oaks Gardens) Marietta, Georgia, "our" Richard Stinson, holder of the Society's scholarship at Ohio State and jolly Dwight Smith of Cincinnati, Ohio. Treasurer Boyce Edens of Atlanta was there in the niftiest tan sport coat - an enthusiastic saintpaulian and a leader . . . without Mr. Edens to lean on where would we be today? Over from Chicago was Bob Davis (Popular Gardening) who was liked by everyone. See you in Chicago Bob!

Our Canadian Cousins are really (should be a capital R) making themselves felt in the African violet world. Joan Copeland (Copeland's Violet House), busy Board member and her husband Frank were there as were Mrs. W. L. Hardy and Mrs. L. H. Davies who are doing some fine work in spreading good cheer with saintpaulias. Two little ladies Mrs. J. W. Scott and Mrs. M. J. Joyce from Montreal were pleasant to know and Miss Marjory Pick and Mrs. D. O. Marshall as well as many more welcome members from Canada were on hand to make the meeting the wonderful experience that it was!

To support the Badger State rolls - and a wonderful group it was too - was Viola Roets (in a smart blue dress at breakfast Friday morning), Myrtle Harlan and Eleanor Meyer, two of the picture takingest ladies you ever did see . . . that is of course if you did see after all those flash bulbs a snappin' and a poppin' (see pages 14 and 15 for a peek at some of the results) and Betty Rosenak a swell little gal that is velocity plus! Next we saw Evelyn Foster, Emmy Hinton, Mrs. Fred Kutschenreuter, Corrine Bovey who is a talented corsage maker and Elsa Kryne, a keen violet grower. It was a real thrill to meet these earnest violet folk.

Photos on pages 17 and 19 by the Editor.

These Huntington members just naturally come to our meetings it seems and it is really fine to have them too. Greetings to Director (this is the old mullarky . . . remember saying this in Cincinnati in 1949 Mary?) Greetings too, to Ethel Crotty and her mother Mrs. H. W. Crowder and Charlotte Hughes who grows those out of this world African violets in her "play house." Hope to see you all in Chicago . . . couldn't do without you!

From way out Golden, Colorado way came Mrs. Theo Greer and from Iowa two of the Society's stalwarts, Ferne Kellar or first president, and Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor for the Magazine - and doin' a fine job too! From New York, Henry Ten Haugen who went violet touring before the meeting, Mrs. Elroy Coniber, Batavia and a proud owner of a fine saintpaulia collection and Mr. F. E. Wentnick of Salisbury Mills who is most active in African violet circles.

Up from Atlanta was Dalene - Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, the energetic lady who did so much in the early days to get saintpaulia people together, from Chattanooga, Tennessee Mrs. Horace Humphreys, a real power house in the club there and "old timer" Jean Crowe. How wonderful to have Jean with us again . . . seems like old times! Did you see that conversation Helen Pochurek (wasn't that a lovely double . . .) was having with Mary Blackburn who was trying to get a word in edgewise and in another group "Under the Door" Priscilla Landaker talking at top speed to a group of Cincinnati friends about . . . ?? Her brown eyes laughing Anne Tinari (Tinari Floral Gardens) was enthusiasm itself. It is always a treat to meet her - more power to you Anne! The "movingist lady" in all Ohio, Mabel Paddock was there, also charming as ever, Mrs. C. R. Ballard, Montgomery, Alabama and . . . though she kept telling everyone she had lost her voice Mrs. L. A. Potruff was talking and talking . . . she never gave up!

From Richmond in Old Virginia was Margaret Ross, president of the Richmond Society and easy to look at Helen Phillips. Now as at all African Violet Society meetings rooms were scarce . . . do you suppose that Ruth Yoars (Yoars Houseplant Nursery) was charged any more for the main dining room? How about it Ruth? BIG rooms must be expensive! A strolling member was heard to say Friday morning as she looked in on the Symposium, "Isn't Henry Peterson (J. A. Peterson & Sons) nice? Every time I look in the room he is talking too." Mrs. T. H. Claimer and Mrs. R. F. Gray took a bow for Asheille, N. Carolina and from S. Carolina, Mrs. Percy Dixon of West Columbia took the honors for her home state. Bright little Martha Mears can certainly hold her own with those Streptocarpus . . . loveliest things ever! So very glad you were so generous Martha as it was a real treat to get a "look see" at what you have done.

Many a congenial group met for each meal to enjoy the food and good company of fellow members as well as the informative program. Picture together Friday evening at the Banquet Meeting a table with Mesdames Mabel Bode, David Ross, Tom Baysore, Kenneth Roser, Myrtle Wagner, Harold Sweeney plus a few more violet friends and you have all the ingredients for a perfect party.

Adding to the pleasantness of the Convention was several husband and wife teams. Big and amicable Montague Free, "The Home Garden," was just the dignified, friendly kind of man you would want him to be and Mrs. Free a gracious lady. It was good to meet them again and to have "Monty" with us on the program. Our Program Chairman (Supreme variety) was H. G. Harvey who drove up from Atlanta with Mrs. Harvey to direct our excellent program. Back from Holland, Director Bill and Alice Carter flew in from Tewkesbury, Massachusetts in time for everything. It was swell to see them both! Some of the other couples were Mr. and Mrs. Banks McDowell, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mr. and Mrs. John Gent (Gent's Greenhouses) Webster, New York, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keithey, Kansas City, Missouri, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Nichols, Madison and Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Turner, Knoxville, Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slocumb, Rochester and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Lyke, East Bethany, New York. It looked like a good time for Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Childs who were having dinner with Alice Wray Taylor, Director-elect for 1952, Mary Meeds (Select Violet House) and R. G. Baxter (Baxter's Greenhouses) of Youngstown, Ohio. A lively young couple was Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Resser, Geneso, Illinois and very interested fans were Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Herman (The Violet Villa) Kansas City. Though temporarily roomless Secretary Neil Miller and neat little Mary Miller carried on their part of the Society's responsibilities in the best tradition . . . Board meeting and all before they were settled and we were glad to have with us Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Wendell, Maquoketa (you pronounce it not me . . .) Iowa.

Memories of the Dayton Meeting bring to mind carnations, orchids, candle-light and fine workers by the score. The Dayton and Richmond Societies, co-hosts for the Convention, covered themselves with glory and to them go our profound thanks. To commend but a few though the many are not forgotten - who so distinguished themselves

. . . leading off was Nelle Berst the efficient and never ruffled general chairman who was so patient with us all and her genial co-chairman Mary Mutchner, the ingenious souvenir lady Lucille Booher who made us happy with the many useful little gifts, Mrs. Elmer Loomis for "The Banquet," Mrs. George Gross for the lovely decorations, Mrs. K. M. Kester for the publicity and the other committee chairman Mrs. J. R. Wampler, Mrs. Ralph Miller, Mrs. Walter Boughton, Mrs. O. P. Lyons, Mrs. Claude Ryder and Mrs. G. D. Wolf. For the exhibit we enjoyed looking at over and over again a special thank you to Mrs. Donald Bates and Mrs. Ralph Englebert.

Saturday afternoon and the Convention's much regretted close . . . our three days in Dayton had just flown away . . Long before everyone was ready to stop taking that last look at some special African violet or to enjoy another "little" visit with this or that good friend . . . it was time to leave for home!

Two views of the Fischer exhibit.

THE SHOW

Ruth Dahnke, Kans.

The hybridizers and commercial growers have been very busy people this past year and the result was a thrill to all who attended the 1951 Convention of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in Dayton, Ohio. The need for more pinks and whites has been recognized as well as consideration for both foliage and flower.

If you will come along we will go back to the show through memory -- but do forgive me for the ones I missed! With so many plants it took several trips back to the exhibit room and even then my notes were not complete.

The first section was seedlings entered by the commercial growers. First place went to Mrs. Joan Copeland of Cooksville, Ontario, Canada for her entry Canadian Shadows. The foliage was rather light green with a light blue flower and white star across the blossom. Second place went to Tinari's of Bethayres, Pennsylvania. Their entry was Navy Bouquet; very double flowers with large petals of navy blue. The plant was well shaped with red reverse to the leaves. (How about an Air Force Blue, Anne?) Third place also went to Tinari's for Tinari's Pink Luster. Blue Eyes was one of the parent plants and it is like Blue Eyes but has a luster pink flower.

In the next section first place went to Fischers of Atlantic City, New Jersey, for a light blue double that had the largest double flowers we have seen to date. It is called Apollo. The flowers are semi-double and bloom in clusters. We found no second place ribbon, but third again went to Fischers for their wine colored double. The flower was not as large as the one described previously -- still it was a large flower.

In the next section first place went to Helen Pochurek of Cleveland, Ohio. Helen's entry was a white double. The foliage was good too, very much like the foliage of Snow Prince but more serrated. The pure white flowers bloomed in clusters. Second place went to Joan Copeland for her Red Lady Geneva. The plant is like Lady Geneva except the flowers are wine colored with a white edge -- and it is being catalogued as Geneva Rainbow.

John Gent of Webster, N. Y. entered a lovely Marine Amazon. I counted 25 open flowers, unusual for an Amazon.

J. A. Petersons & Son entered both Dark Norseman and Light Norseman variations of the beloved Norseman. The pale Norseman was a new shade in blue for saintpaulias. Shown also was a Red Mentor Boy, and it was as lovely as Mentor Boy in blue.

Rosa Peters of Grand Rapids, Michigan won the Sweepstakes ribbon for her collection. Rosa grows her plants in the basement with fluorescent lights, the walls painted white. The foliage was deep olive green and those of girl type foliage had lime green spots rather than the usual white or cream spot. We may have missed some of them but here goes -- Maple leaf has girl type foliage with large purple flowers. Floret had large leaves with dark blue flowers

also girl foliage. Purple Crest had large girl foliage and very red on the reverse of leaf. The flower was purple. Lyric has very curled, girl type foliage with big leaves. (I was so impressed by the foliage, I forgot the color of the flower.) Trinket dark foliage with the lime spot not as large as some of the others but the leaves were pointed. The flowers were wine. This plant has very upright growth. Bleeding Heart, again girl type but with a distinct red line between the olive green and lime green spot. An unnamed seedling had very dark foliage with a deep blue flower. The following are described by the Fischers color chart. Blue Torch, blue violet No. 2 grows upright with girl foliage; Sceptor, blue violet No. 1, large pointed leaf, girl type foliage; Lily Pad is red violet No. 1 rather like Gorgeous foliage, red underneath and a very large plant; Halo has a flower the color of Mentor Boy; Misstress has very curly leaves and a large lime green spot; Damsel is blue violet No. 2, a compact plant with a lot of lime green. Mrs. Peters has adopted Rose' Onnas as the series name for her introductions.

Now to move on to the next section. This was to have been seedlings but there were also sports or mutations in the group. First place went to Mrs. Jerry Coleman of Marion, Indiana. The plant had medium green leaves and an orchid flower. The two top petals were darker and shaded into the lower petals slightly. Second place was awarded to Mrs. W. S. Boughton of Vandalia, Ohio for a plant with light blue flowers and foliage rather the shape of Ruffles but shiny and quilted with red on the reverse of the leaf. Mrs. Z. C. Layson of Maysville, Kentucky took the third place.

Above, Paul Slough and two views of the Ulery exhibit.

Below, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, Dark Beauty and Twinkle Girl.

In the next section Mrs. Everett of New Kensington, Pa., took first place with a very unusual plant. The leaf was rather like Ionantha but the edge of the leaf turned up like a lily pad. The flowers were an odd combination of green and purple, double. Mrs. Martha Mears of Anderson, Indiana entered several plants, Dorothy D. a large girl type plant with bright red wine flowers; Hoosier Maid has a dark purple flower with girl type foliage with the spot more red than white; Peter Pan was deep red violet, round blossoms, girl type foliage that grew very flat; Pied Piper had upright growth habit with bi-color red violet flowers. Mrs. R. L. Browning of Flemingsburg, Ky., entered a plant with light green foliage and flowers of a lovely shade of soft pink. Mrs. Jerry Coleman of Marion, Indiana entered a plant with dark green foliage and flowers two shades of orchid.

In the Novel Planting Class the requirements drew on artistic as well as horticulture. First place went to Mary Sweeney of Xenia, Ohio. The entry was a natural planting, a tray filled with green moss, small ferns and in the background a plant that very much resembled a palm tree. African violets were used as the focal point. It was certainly African violets in their natural setting. Second place went to Mrs. K. M. Kester of Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Kester had also used green moss in her planting but used a hollow log with vines and small plants as a setting for the African violets. The third entry was by Mrs. Joe Herman of Kansas City, Missouri. It was a huge bubble bowl filled with small plants of Violet Villa Pixies (leprechauns if you are Irish) napping in the shade of the African violets.

First place in antique containers went to Mrs. O. P. Lyons of Dayton, Ohio. The container was a pewter tea pot with Pixies sitting on the lid of the tea pot and as accessories to the African violets planted in the tea pot.

Plantings for Coffee Table was awarded for a pair of ceramic figurines with long skirts. The African violet planting was used as a bustle corsage. (Sorry but I could find no name.)

First place for the largest plant in the show went to Mrs. Velma Loomis. The plant looked very much like Bi-Color.

In the next class Mrs. Layson took first prize for a plant that looked like a true minature. It was a minature both in leaf and flower.

Now we begin the commercial exhibits not in competition. The first one was Ulery's of Springfield, Ohio. Here we always get a peep into the future. By Mr. Ulery's request may I say Ulery's are strictly wholesalers and sell only to commercial dealers so if you are not actually commercial please wait for these plants from your retail dealers rather than write to Ulery's. So many letters merely mean more correspondence when their business is with commercial people. They will be circulated just as soon as supply is ready. Now for some descriptions . . . . Dark Beauty is a white double with dark blue center and slightly into the flower. Sailors Delight has a light blue double flower with girl type foliage. Sea girl is the same with medium blue double flowers. Double Orchid Girl is well described in the name (which makes us all happy) and a very nice double. Orchid

Left, view from the Special Arrangements, below from the Commercial Exhibit and Gesneria Exhibit.

Rosa Peters

Treasure has a white flower with an orchid edge and medium green foliage. Twinkle Girl has a white flower with an orchid blue edge and the usual white spot on the leaf characteristic of girl type foliage, very red on the reverse of leaf with flowers between orchid and lavender. Snow Prince has been on the market for several months but for those of you who do not know it, the plant has very substantial foliage that does not curl. The leaf is pointed and heavy. The pure white flower is round like the Neptune flower. Purity is a pure gleaming white double with medium green foliage. With this introduction we feel it won't be too long, before we get the double pink, yellow and maybe even a double yellow. That is of course a large order but from the show nothing seems impossible with saintpaulias. Lavender Girl is also well named. Orchid Sunset has large double wine colored flowers. Blue Beauty has Snow Prince foliage with a periwinkle blue flower that has a lighter shade star. Orchid Velvet has large light wine flowers. Blue Heiress has a very large dark blue flower with much the same shade as du Pont No. 1, some with six petals. This plant has girl foliage that certainly suggests du Pont Girl No. 1. Pink Delight has dark green foliage with a very red reverse to the leaf. The flower is a soft light pink. The foliage on Pink Delight is the same as Innocence (last year referred to as Ulery's White. We are still waiting for the release). Pink Wonder again has the same foliage but the flower is a brilliant pink. Rose Marie again has the same foliage but the flower is darker and rose colored. Pansy has a plain leaf with Bi-Color blossom. The two top petals are wine colored, the other three pale orchid but the wine color tips each of the orchid petals. Purple Dawn is quilted, dark red reverse to the dark green foliage and a purple flower. Paul Slough was there to answer questions.

Next is the Peterson exhibit. Henry Peterson brought well established varieties as well as the new. We are grateful to Henry for the opportunity to identify correctly so many of the good varieties so often misnamed or carrying several names. Too often beginners follow veteran collectors who are after the new things only, and forget those collectors already have many of the established varieties and would not be without them. Some of these are Bi-Color, the two top petals deep wine red with the pale orchid bottom petals. The foliage is good and grows into a well shaped plant. Blue Warrior with the deep green pointed leaves very shiny and quilted. The flower is dark blue. Rose Purple with purple flowers and dark green foliage with quite red reverse to the leaves. Amethyst Amazon the same lavender-pink flowers of Amethyst but much larger and more rounded. The foliage is more round than heart shaped and heavy. Ison with dark quilted foliage and rather dark blue flowers. Just which is Blue Bird and which is Begonia Belle is still not quite clear to me but they both grow into exceptionally well shaped plants, with large leaves and medium blue flowers. For several years I have had one called Blue Bird and love its red reverse to the leaves and good large blooms. Every time I started to compare them something came up that kept me from really getting straight but I will yet. Of the newer varieties Henry showed Orchid Wonder with flowers of two shades of orchid, profuse bloomer. Blue Ohio Valley is light blue with rather dark shiny foliage. The leaves are large. This is one of the varieties originated by Mrs. Hughes. Three of the others are Miss West Virginia with reddish type flower and plain dark foliage; Mom's Girl has reddish flower and girl foliage; Painted Ballerina has reddish bi-color flower with girl foliage.

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Montague Free

A Horticulturist Looks at Saintpaulia

Florence Foltz, Penna.

There have been many well known speakers at our various National African Violet Society Conventions, but it is my humble opinion that none can claim the nationwide popularity of Mr. Montague Free, who is known, if I may use a local expression "all over the United States and part of Pennsylvania." Mr. Free, Staff Horticulturist of Home Garden Magazine, is the author of the book, "All About House Plants," and it was indeed an honor to have been chosen to "cover" his address. I only hope I will be able to do it justice.

It must have taken a great deal of courage to stand up before so large a group . . . predominantly women . . . and express views contrary to the opinions of the majority, but it gave me a new perspective which I shall try to pass along.

In opening his address, Mr. Free remarked that his acquaintance with saintpaulias was made about 50 years ago when he observed them growing in the greenhouses of the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens in England. His present interest is a result of his having been asked, several years ago, to speak at one of our conventions. At that time he declined because he felt he was not an expert on their culture, but the invitation provided the incentive for two years of intensive study which resulted in his writing a book on saintpaulias which is now in the hands of the publisher.

In his research, Mr. Free soon discovered . . . along with the rest of us . . . that there are too many names and many varieties that are so much alike that they do not warrant a distinctive name. He was quick to add that there is always room for good saintpaulias, especially those having floriferous quality, and ability to endure harsh conditions, and resistance to pests that can and undoubtedly will be bred into saintpaulias. He feels that ultimately the

name and variety situation will settle itself, but has great hopes that the Registration Committee can hurry things along. The desirability of test stations has been discussed, and, ideally, should be handled by State Agricultural Experiment Stations, but lack of funds prohibits that. Consequently, the job will be the task of private growers, and Mr. Free suggested that the varieties be divided into groups and assigned to growers in various parts of the country.

Some of the developments in African violet varieties are to be depreciated, or so it seems to Mr. Free. To use his words, "At the last convention, I was shown and was expected to admire a variety that was lacking both stamens and pistils. To me the contrast between the golden stamens and the flower color of the corolla is one of the most charming features of a saintpaulia flower. It reminds me when I was a young man the gals used to say that a kiss from a man without a mustache is like eating an egg without salt." A saintpaulia lacking its essential organs is also like an egg without salt.

He does not like the double varieties any better than he did last year and stated that he will NOT like them until we have a symmetrical blossom like a rose or camellia.

Having expressed two definite opinions at least slightly contrary to the average saintpaulia fan without having been assailed with a single rotten tomato (it was a little early in the season for them), Mr. Free decided to get rid of some more venom and take a poke at those who persist in calling saintpaulias just "violets." To use his words, "saintpaulias are not violets." They are not even closely related to them. They belong in different plant families widely separated in the scheme of plant classification. Plants belonging in the genus VIOLA have been known as violets for hundreds of years and it is quite unethical to transfer the name to an entirely different group of plants, which surely is important enough to own a name that is all its own. It also gives you an opportunity to call yourselves "saintpaulians." Aside from being unethical, it is confusing to call saintpaulias violets. For example, Mr. Free said, "Just think of the consternation of a saintpaulia fan who writes to the Question Box of the Home Garden asking, 'What is the best way to care for my violets' and is told in reply the cultural requirement of the sweet violet: to dig up rooted runners in spring, plant them out in rich soil such as provided in the vegetable garden, dig them

Photo by Kepler

Florence Foltz

up in the fall and plant them in a coldframe or in a greenhouse where the temperature can be maintained near 40 degrees!" Mr. Free also pointed out the futility of trying to produce a yellow violet by hybridizing saintpaulias with the yellow violets of our woods. He emphasized that it is not possible to cross plants which do not belong to the genus, and added, "The hopeful hybridist in this case stands as much chance of getting the yellow saintpaulia by these means as he does of combining strawberries and cream in one plant by crossing milkweed and strawberries."

During his investigations, Mr. Free noted that he found quite a lot of fanciful notions about the culture of saintpaulias. One of the oldest is that once saintpaulias are in place in the home, they should never under any circumstance be moved. This, he feels, is too absurd to warrant a comment.

And there was the lady who reported putting something or other in the water in which she proposed to start leaf cuttings, and within a few weeks every hair on the stalk developed into a root. This is not so. because hairs are outgrowths of the epidermal cells; roots are deep-seated in their origin. "I was very much interested in the symposium in the magazine on Black Flies to find that one lady reported that a solution of saltpeter, household ammonia, epsom salts and baking powder effectively disposed of these pests," commented the speaker. "It interested me, because it is a formula for a nutrient solution made up of chemicals which one can get from kitchen

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Left to right, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Yoars and Rev. Mr. Ulery.

Left to right, Mrs. Yoars, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Rockelman and Mrs. Radtke.

PRACTICAL METHODS OF CULTIVATION AND SHIPPING

Emily Hodan and Cameron Conant, Ohio

At the 1951 Convention, Mr. H. G. Harvey presided at the symposium on the above subject. Mr. Henry Peterson acted as master of ceremonies, with the Rev. Dale Ulery, Mrs. Ruth Yoars, and Mr. Paul Rockelmann participating. Mr. William Merkel was absent due to the illness of his wife.

Both Mr. Harvey and Mr. Peterson stressed the fact that "AFRICAN VIOLETS ARE BIG BUSINESS". How big, no one knows! The year 1946 was not only the start of the African Violet Society, but the start of African violets in big business. The commercial growers took over under chaotic conditions -- straightened out the confusion and developed methods of propagating. This Society is extremely proud of its commercial growers.

Mr. Peterson, chairman and first speaker, told us that in propagating African violets, we should always be on the lookout for something new. After a plant has been selected, the leaf should be chosen -- a medium-sized, firm leaf with a short petiole (½ to ¾ inches) will produce more crowns. By using the short petiole, there is less chance of the petiole growing and failing to produce baby plants. At Peterson's all petioles are cut on a slant; this makes all plantlets grow on one side of the cutting, the mother leaf can be removed, and the small plant grows more symmetrically. The Petersons propagate in four benches, 125 to 150 feet long. Mr. Peterson thinks boxes would be better, but, since they have the benches they are used. They use either vermiculite or sand as a propagating medium. Coarse vermiculite is used, and the cuttings are dipped in sulphur solution for the purpose of guaranteeing cleanliness in the cuttings. (A high concentration of sulphur accumulation on cuttings in garden vermiculite caused cuttings to burn here and there. Cuttings treated with sulphur solution did not seem to burn in either sand or coarse vermiculite.)

After the cuttings are started, they are potted in 2 1/4 inch pots, single or multi-crowns, as they come out of the benches. Multi-crown plants ship better than single

Left to right, Mr. Harvey, Mr. Rockelman and Mr. Peterson.

Left to right, Mrs. Yoars, Mr. Harvey, Rev. Mr. Ulery and Mr. Peterson.

crown. The soil mixture used by Peterson's is 50% garden loam, 25% peat moss and 25% sand. If live steam is used for sterilizing, the nitrate level is increased to such a degree that it is necessary to use superphosphate. After two or three weeks plants must be fertilized with a liquid fertilizer. Sodium selenate will not prevent or cure mealy bugs. Mr. Peterson thinks steam sterilization is best, but is unable to use it in his concrete benches; in these benches, methyl bromide, covered with Sisalcraft paper is used. Light conditions at Petersons' are equal to 1000 foot candles on a bright day. Their temperature averages 60°, but they hope to raise it to 65° next year.

The Petersons have not been too interested in raising seedlings, but have had a few mutants -- Red Mentor Boy and light and dark Norseman. They ship plants by railroad express, parcel post, air express and air freight. Their shipping cartons are standardized and hold 25 plants, in either 3 inch or 2 1/4 inch pots. In winter they have been using a double carton, with sawdust in the outside one. Mr. Peterson says all shipping is troublesome and asks that any damage claims be filed at the receiving end. If no satisfaction is received, then write to them.

Rev. Dale Ulery was the second speaker. Ulery's have been raising African violets since 1932. Their first plants were grown from seed imported from Germany. In those early days, there were many lavender hybrids. FRIEDA originated someplace near Dayton, and 1938 two hundred and fifty four inch pots were thrown away because they would not sell.

Rev. Ulery told us that there are two kinds of dealers -- the regular florist and the hobbyist, and that the regular florist does not want single crown plants. Commercial growers cannot grow the new varieties only, as older ones are desired also. Our speaker wonders when the end of new varieties will come. He has no idea how many varieties there now are.

A mature leaf in healthy condition will produce a good plant. Rev. Ulery says that, in propagating, the growers should use the method best suited to their own conditions. Ulery's cuttings are grown in flats or boxes in a mixture of peat, sand and vermiculite. They feed the cuttings and grow them in a high temperature and high humidity. Night temperatures can be as low as 58° or 60°, or lower, but these temperatures do not produce as quickly as a 65° temperature. Ulery's night temperature is 62° and their day temperature is 80° or above. This grower likes all the light possible, as long as it does not cause bleaching. A liquid fertilizer is used two or three times to start the plants growing. Rev. Ulery said that leaves can be potted in a pot and may be fed when in good growth; also that baby plants should not be disturbed when too small or many may be lost. They use parathion gas, as it eliminates most insect troubles. Parathion is not practical in small attached greenhouses.

Ulery's find the interest in new varieties very high, and see no end in sight. On the subject of mutations, Rev. Ulery feels that they, too, are limitless, since their BLUE GIRL is a mutation. Commercial growers are working for larger flowers with sturdy easily handled foliage.

He feels that the Railroad Express would be glad if no African violets were ever shipped, as they cause plenty of trouble. They find the Express Company willing to co-operate in making a claim, IF there has been unnecesary delay in transit; otherwise,

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What We Don't Know About African Violets and What We Are Doing About It

Richard F. Stinson
African Violet Society of America, Inc.
Research Fellow 1950-51

Dick began his talk by blowing a referee's whistle. He then explained that he had done this to remind his audience that everything he was about to discuss was "at the half", that he hoped to show a few trends in the saintpaulia research projects at the Ohio State University, but that these might not necessarily predict the "final score".

He briefly listed the projects being studied. Then he explained the following facts pertaining to all the show plants used in the test: All plants were propagated the first week in July and all tests were started about mid-September; the varieties used were selected as representing a cross section of commonly grown types and included Mentor Boy, Pink Girl, Redhead Girl, White Lady, and Amethyst Amazon; all plants were donated by Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio; the soil in all plots was tested regularly and fertilizer was applied according to these soil tests; the water used was warmed up to 70° F. prior to application to avoid ring spot on the foliage; all plants, unless otherwise specified, were exposed to light intensities of from 700 to 1200 foot-candles. The number of flowers on each plant were being counted weekly, and the diameters of each plant were being recorded monthly.

Mr. Stinson

He then discussed the experiments in greater detail.

The first experiment was a study of the effect of various light intensities upon flower bud initiation and development. It was divided into two phases - an observation study and an anatomical study. He then defined a foot-candle of light. Seven cloth enclosed boxes with the following maximum light intensities were used in this test: 100 fc., 300 fc., 500 fc., 1100 fc., 1300 fc. The first plot to flower was the 1100 fc. plot in late December; the 900 fc. plot flowered in Mid March; while the 700 fc. and 1300 fc. plots flowered in late April. Slides of representative plant of each variety from each treatment were then shown. It was observed that about 1000 fc. seemed to give the best results. For commercial growers a "Weston" light meter, model 603, Weston Electric Instrument Corporation, Newark, New Jersey, was suggested as a very satisfactory device to aid in maintaining proper light conditions in the greenhouse. The following suggestions were made for midwestern amateur growers of saintpaulias: During April, May, June, and July the equivalent of one layer of muslin cloth should be satisfactory; from four to two layers of cheese cloth should be used in August, September, and October; one layer of cheese cloth is about right for November, December, and January; and from two to

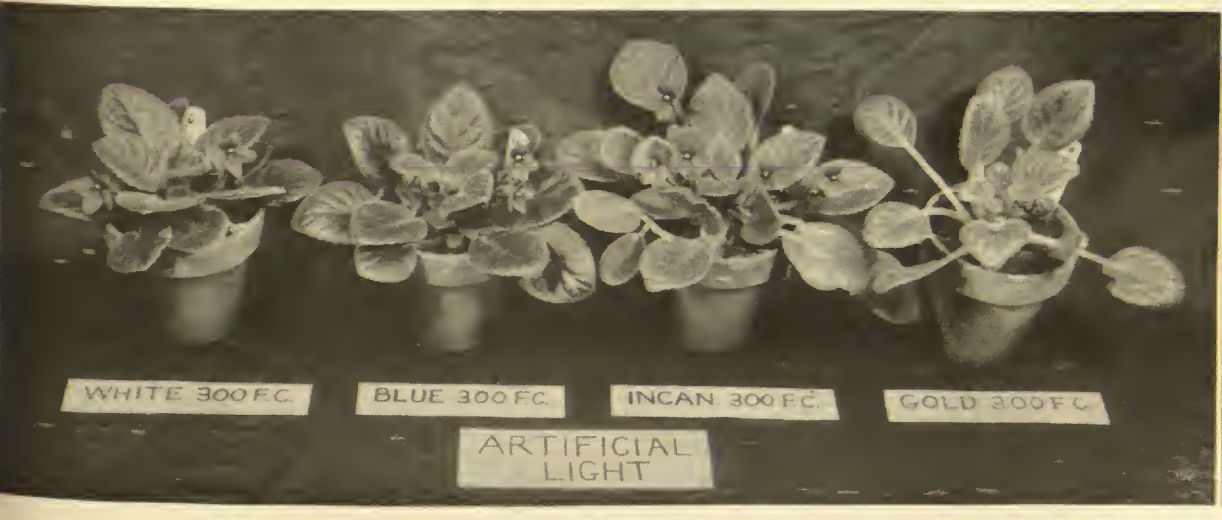
Mentor Boy as grown at different light intensity.

four layers of cheese cloth should be used in February and March. These recommendations were based upon a south window exposed to full sunlight all day.

The anatomical phase of this problem involved taking bud samples from the leaf axils of plants in the various plots at weekly intervals. These buds are now being sectioned, stained, and studied with a micrscope in order that the course of their development may be determined.

The second experiment was a study of the various temperatures upon growth and flowering of this plant. Three plastic enclosed boxes were used in this experiment. One was exposed to normal greenhouse temperatures (60° F. at night) and the remaining two boxes were equipped with heating cables and automatic ventilators to maintain even temperatures of 70° F. and of 80° F. The 80° F. plot began to flower in mid-February; the 70° F. plot, the third week in February; and the 60° F. plot, the third week in March. Slides were then shown representing the effects of the various temperatures upon each variety. It

Mentor Boy as grown under artificial light.



A study of the effect of various light intensities on flower bud initiation and development.

appeared that the 70° F. treatment might turn out to be the most satisfactory one.

The third experiment involved a study of the growth and flowering of this plant under artificial illumination. Only one variety, Mentor Boy, was used in this experment. The plants were grown in a basement at a temperature near 62° F. The lights were turned on at 8:00 p. m. No natural light reached the plants at any time. The following plots were set up: "Daylight" fluorescent tubes at 100 fc., 200 fc., and 300 fc., "white" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc.; "blue" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc.; "gold" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc., and 100 watt incandescent lamps at 300 fc. Colored slides showed that the most satisfactory plants were those grown under "Daylight" or "White" fluorescent tubes at 300 fc. These plants began flowering in early February. It was recommended that 40 watt tubes with reflectors be used and that the distance from pot rim to tube should be eleven inches. Twelve hours of light per day were recommended. It was also pointed out that the light intensity drops off rapidly beyond the edges of the reflectors.

A study of the effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon growth and flowering of saintpaulias constituted the fourth experiment. All plants used were of the variety Mentor Boy. At this point Dick defined organic fertilizer, inorganic fertilizer and pH. Slides were then shown of plots having low, medium, and high amounts of the following nutrients: inorganic nitrogen, organic nitrogen, potash, and calcium. Plots having pH values of 4.5, 5.5, 6.5, and 7.5 were also represented. It was noted that at this time the plots did not show any differences that should be considered significant.

The fifth experiment consisted of a study of various soil mixtures in which were included soil, sand, well-rotted manure, leafmold, "vitaloam" and "moat" in various proportions. The slides seemed to indicate that mixtures including well-rotted manure appeared slightly better than the others, but it was pointed out that this experiment will not be completed for at least several months.

Several methods of watering were discussed as experiment number six. A plot of plants grown by the constant-level method was contrasted with one watered by hand in the usual way. The slides that were shown revealed that the plants grown by the constant-level method were slightly superior. It was pointed out however, that this experiment is not yet completed.

The last study that was discussed was that of determining chromosome numbers in some plants suspected of having double the usual number. It was indicated that this work requires considerable skill, patience, and time, but that at least some information should be available in a few months.

Dick then concluded his talk by again listing the names of the experiments, and pointing out that his comments had been the "score at the half."

He then suggested a number of phases on which further study should be made, including methods to speed propagation, a study of photoperiodism in this plant; a light intensity duration study; and a study of the effects of illuminating gas upon this plant.

He ended by thanking the African Violet Society for making the Fellowship available to him.

Saintpaulia Species

PRESENTED AT THE FIFTH CONVENTION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., DAYTON, OHIO APRIL 27, 1951*

Evan Roberts, Department of Horticulture
Michigan State College

The scientific names of the African violets are made up of two parts. The first part, Saintpaulia, is the name of the genus. The second name consists of the name of the species which is usually not capitalized. Thus we have the following species of African violets. The first names all start with Saintpaulia.

Saintpaulia amaniensis . .(S. a-man-ee-en-sis)
Saintpaulia diplotricha . (S. dip-lo-trick-uh)
Saintpaulia goetzeana . .(S. gets-ee-anna)
Saintpaulia grotei . . . .(S. grow-tea-i)
Saintpaulia ionantha . . .(S. i-o-nan-tha)
Saintpaulia magungensis .(S. mă-goon-gĕn-sis)
Saintpaulia orbicularis .(S. or-bic-u-laris)
Saintpaulia pusilla . . .(S. pu-silla)
Saintpaulia tongwensis . .(S. tong-wensis)

These are not as difficult to learn as they may sound. If you can remember the word Saintpaulia you have learned one half of the names. The species names of the African violets are either descriptive or named after a person or place.

A species is a category of classification lower than a genus. Usually the group possesses in common one or more distinctive characters and reproduce their characteristics in their offspring. As far as the species of African violets are concerned, let us consider a species as a representative of distinct groups of wild East African Saintpaulia plants. They presumably have the ability to produce plants like themselves. These species have been growing, or now are growing, in their native locations in East Africa and most of the known ones have been introduced into the United States within recent times.

*This presentation was illustrated with slides which have not been reproduced in this article.

Mr. Roberts

Aside from their natural beauty as specimen plants, their main value lies in their possible use to create new African violet varieties, with habits of growth strikingly different than many of you are accustomed to seeing in the usual varieties of African violets. Some of you are now hybridizing these very interesting species with this object in mind. Preliminary hybridization has indicated that our existing varieties will cross readily with these species.

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Invisible Enemies of the African Violet

Freeman A. Weiss, Washington, D. C.

Most of us can recall some episode of the more romantic days of our childhood when we wished ardently for the power to become invisible, as the good princes and bad goblins did in the fairy tales we read - and more than half believed! We imagined all sorts of sometimes heroic, but often mischievous, ends that we could accomplish if we could only go out of sight temporarily and at will.

Nowadays we don't believe in invisible persons, good or bad, but we recognize many potent forces that affect our daily lives, yet operate wholly beyond our ability to see or hear, such as gravity and magnetism, and such sub-microscopic things as viruses and molecules. Seeing is believing, so they say, but modern man has to believe in many things he can't see, or at any rate, see with his unaided eye. All this is mentioned only to substantiate the thesis of this article, which is that the African Violet has several invisible but nonetheless real enemies. Though we can't (ordinarily) see them, we can certainly recognize them by their effects. This refers primarily to the organisms - fungi, nematodes, perhaps bacteria - that are responsible for root and crown rot.

Some of the other insidious enemies of African violets, such as mites and thrips, aren't too easily visible unless we know just where to look and use a magnifying aid to our natural vision, but we sometimes know to our sorrow that they are there. Nematodes are still smaller, mostly from 1/50th to 1/100th of an inch long, - beyond the range of an ordinary hand lens - and so far as the African violet is concerned, they all live underground. There have been unconfirmed reports of nematode caused leaf spots of saintpaulia, but none has as yet been authenticated. Furthermore, nematodes are mostly "inside workers", often imbedded in the plant tissues, as for example those causing knots and galls on roots, or they feed partly within the fine roots, which are poisoned or killed by their presence. When a plant thusly infected is dug up and examined in the ordinary way, the tiny roots and their nematode parasites are left behind in the soil. Thus for many years, even the professional plant pathologists failed to recognize the root-feeding, non-gall forming nematodes as serious plant pests, but these subterranean saboteurs are now known to be an important factor in "sick soil". That the African violet is a potential victim of a number of kinds of root feeding nematodes, as well as of the root-knot species, has now been amply confirmed. Aside from the direct harm they do roots by tearing the tissues with their microscopic stylets, and by feeding on the sap, they pave the way for other organisms - the fungi and bacteria -to enter and extend the damage. In fact, we believe that most of the root and crown rots of saintpaulia, with which fungi are undoubtedly

Dr. Freeman Weiss

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"The Questions They Ask Me"

Victor H. Ries, Extension Floriculturist, Ohio State

Dr. Ries, Mr. Edens and Dr. Smith

This informative talk covered the multitude of questions a plant interested public may ask a horticulturist. The following suggestions in plant care were given by Dr. Ries.

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

LET'S LOOK AT THE SOIL

SOIL REACTION - Determined by delicate chemical or electric test. Called pH on a scale of 1 to 10. pH 7 is neutral, above is alkaline, below is acid. Most plants are highly tolerant - grow pH 5.5 to pH 7.5. Members of heath family and some other plants require acid soil, pH 4.5-5.5. Other factors often more important. Soils do not change materially in reaction from year to year.

SOIL AERATION - Roots require air same as leaves. The finer the particles of soil the less air space between them, the more pores filled with water. Organic matter better than sand or vermiculite for aerating soil. Vermiculite apt to keep soil too wet.

SOIL STRUCTURE - Best results with soil high in organic matter - 1/4 to 1/3 Spaghnum peat will be most permanent. If leaf mold used have leaf particles still present. Muck not satisfactory. If clay soil used add up to 1/3 sand . African violets need relatively little soil. Azaleas pots or even pans better than regular pots.

A FEW GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

FLOWER PRODUCTION - Adequate growth of plant necessary. Proper temperature between 70° and 80° dropping to 60° at night may retard flower production. Proper amount of light . . . If daylight between 700 and 1100 foot candles. If artificial light . . . 12 hrs. 300 ft. candle daylight fluorescent. If multiple crowned remove center leaves to allow more light to center of crowns.

CAUSES OF TROUBLE OTHER THAN INSECTS AND DISEASES - Earthworms in pots dry out roots, destroy organic matter. Keeping plants too cool, possibly on cold window sill. Giving plants insufficient light. Giving plants too much light. Overwatering. Underwatering. Irregular watering. Overfertilization. Under fertilization.

WATER - Temperature not important except when applied to leaves. Under 70° may discolor.

Watering from below (subirrigation) more apt to give deposit of salts on pot rim than watering from above.

Constant level not satisfactory in greenhouse at Ohio State University.

Plants can be grown dry, like succulents and bloom or can be kept moist like ferns and begonias. Alternating from one method to other often disastrous.

FERTILIZATION - Mix complete fertilizer with soil before planting, 3" pot to 1 bu. soil or 1 oz. to 4 or 5 lbs. of soil. Afterwards fertilize every 4 to 8 weeks, March to November.

SOIL STERILIZATION - Minimum temperature of 180° for 1/2 hr. means 2 to 3 hrs. at 200-250° to penetrate mass. Methyl Bromide capsules available. Treat out of doors in closed container.

Mrs. Rector autographing book for Mrs. Marsh and friends

HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

By Carolyn Rector

Reprinted from (How to Grow African Violets) by Carolyn Rector
with permission of the Lane Publishing Co., Menlo Park, California.

CHAPTER 7

Methods of Watering

WHENEVER I SPEAK BEFORE A CLUB about watering African violets, I always find that there is at least one person in the audience who grows violets in pots that are constantly standing in water anywhere from one to three inches deep, has done so for years, has never lost a plant, and has the finest violets in the neighborhood, and wants to know how I account for that.

I don't account for it. Such procedure is completely contrary to all the accepted rules for culture of the saintpaulia, which is not an aquatic plant, and which will usually curl up and die if watered too freely.

There is another violet fancier who waters the plants once a week on a certain day, regardless of weather conditions or the size of the plant. She never mentions losing one.

If you would like to try either of these methods, you might practice them first on some plants that you consider expendable, so that if they die you will not be discouraged.

The basic rules about watering—that these growers claim to violate so successfully—are simple and easy to follow. These are: Soak the plants thoroughly with warm water, let the surplus drain off, and if any is left in the pot saucers after an hour or so, pour it out, do not let the plants stand in it. Then do not water again until the surface is dry to the touch. And I mean DRY.

The frequency with which they should be watered depends on the size of the pot, the porousness of the soil, the variety of the plant, the time of the year, and the conditions under which they are grown. Some individual plants will take more water than others. And if the humidity in your house is high, the plants will not take up as much water as they will when the humidity is low.

Top vs. Bottom Watering

The time-honored method of watering violets, which is usually recommended to the beginner, is always to water from the bottom by standing the pot in a pan of water until dampness shows on the surface of the soil in the pot. This is a very good way, particularly if you have only one or two plants. But it is a bothersome method to follow if you have a large number of violets. With a large collection, you would have to spend most of your time dunking potted violets in pans of water.

Actually, if you are careful, you can water violets from the top, like any other house plant. Use a watering can with a long thin spout that can nose in under the leaves. With it, you can pour water gently on the soil around the plant, taking care not to pour any into the center of the crown.

Wick Watering

Wick watering is a troublefree and successful way of keeping your violets adequately irrigated. If you would like to try it, obtain a piece of fiberglass wicking, about the size of twine, cut off a 4-inch piece, and draw one end of it through the drainage hole of a pot. You do not need any special pots for this system, although you can buy them if you wish. Spread out the end inside the pot until it lies flat all around the hole. This will keep it from slipping out. Then put in your soil and plant as usual. Water the plant from the top until water comes through and drips from the end of the wick. Then rest the pot in a saucer or container that is made so it will hold a few inches of water and support the potted plant so its bottom rests an inch or so above the surface of the water. The bottom of the pot must not touch the water in the lower container. There must always be an air space between the bottom of the pot and the water.

About every two weeks, empty out the water from the bottom vessel and let the plant dry until the surface soil is quite dry. Thoroughly clean the bottom container and refill with water or solution. Then water the plant until it drips from the wick and put it back in place.

There is some danger of crown rot in this method, but many people like it. One of the secrets of successful wick watering is not to use too fat wicks, which keep the plant too wet. For a plant of four-inch pot size or smaller, a wick about the size of twine is sufficient. For very large plants, a fatter wick may be safely used.

Constant Water-level Method

The constant water-level method is used by some growers. Here is the way to work it:

Obtain a water-tight pan or trough not less than 6 inches deep. The length and width will depend on the size of the space

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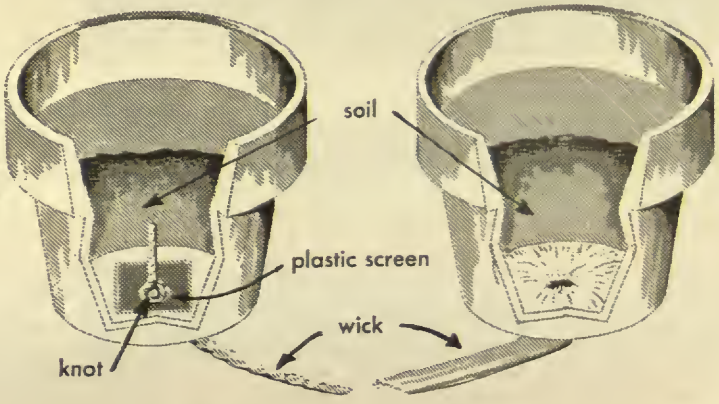

How to attach fiberglass wick to pot so it will not slip out.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

Ella Carter and Priscella Landaker, Ohio

Spectators congregated on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 10 and 11, 1951, for a view through the giant windows of Cincinnati Gas and Electric Co. Naturally, African violets were the attraction. The Queen City African Violet Society was holding its second competitive show.

The crowd was fascinated by the annual display on the ledge directly behind the plate glass windows, which was the contribution of Mr. Henry Peterson of the J. A. Peterson and Son Co., of Cincinnati. Mr. Peterson created a beautiful picture of "Violets in a Woodland Scene" by using four hundred African violet plants which were banked by palms and lovely gloxinias. Further interest was focused on a map of the Tanganyika section of East Africa which had been placed to the extreme right in the window. Mr. Peterson had designated the exact areas on this map where the original specie plants were found. Data concerning each specimen was also attached to the map.

Looking beyond the window, the spectators could see that this municipal-minded firm had given African violets full possession of their foyer. There the show was staged in the form of a wheel. A large fountain was the hub, grass-cloth covered tables were the spokes, and gold colored guard ropes were the rim. Colored lights played over the three hundred forty-seven plants including ninety-four arrangements which were entered for competition. The over-all effect was that of a huge rainbow.

Evening viewers could not realize that there were one hundred sixty-three varieties among the three hundred forty-seven, exclusive of the special exhibits, neither could these viewers see important details as did the day-time viewers. There was a constant grouping of people around the educational table and the sixty plants grown by two members of the club under fluorescent lights. The third special exhibit was that of the club's founder and first president, Mrs. Arthur Radtke. Her "one-gal" show was a conspicuous feature. Included in the spectacular array were fifty-four unusual varieties of large plants. The judges awarded Mrs. Radtke the tri-color ribbon.

In the competitive class, the first prize was awarded to Mrs. Mark Allgeier, the second to Mrs. John Schwartz, and the third to Mrs. A. B. Cooper. Judges awarded a total of one hundred sixty-three ribbons.

The specimen judges were Mesdames Layson, Browning and Mutchner while the arrangement judges were Mrs. Garry and Mrs. Smyth.

Mrs. Edward Lotz, the general chairman, and her entire committee are to be congratulated for giving the Cincinnati area a most unusual treat. The Queen City African

Right, Mrs. Harry Moeller Sr., Mrs. James Asmann and Mr. Walter Beckjord, Pres. Cincinnati Gas & Electric Co.

Left, Myrtle Radtke and her exhibit.

Below, this shows the judges in action Clem Browning, Anna Layson and Mary Mutchner.

Violet Society is grateful for all who participated and cooperated so completely. Special appreciation should go to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric. Co. who made possible the beautiful setting that you may glimpse in the accompanying pictures.

CLUB SHOWS

Left to right, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Bradford, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Walsh and Mrs. Rule.

Above, Doll House by Mrs. Roy Vineyard.

Below, Hawaiian Head by Mrs. Lester Smith.

OAK RIDGE

The Oak Ridge African Violet Club held an exhibit of African violets, on May 12th and 13th, in the east lounge of Ridge Recreation Hall. The exhibit was open to the public. Taking part were all forty-eight members of the four sections, Charter, Ionantha, Amethyst and Neptune. Officers for the current year are:

President,	Mrs. Miles Bradford
Vice President,	Mrs. A. B. Bowman
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. M. McLeod
Secretary,	Mrs. G. L. Krattler.

The room in which the exhibit was held is thirty-six feet by sixty feet, with soft green walls and gold draperies. Gold crepe paper was used under all the specimen and seedling plants, creating a lovely background color scheme for the nearly four hundred plants.

Included were special arrangements, specimen plants, seedlings, literature of many kinds, "give-away" leaves, and a woodland scene depicting violets in their natural habitat.

Six hundred ninety-six people from forty-two cities and sixteen states signed the guest book.

The background mural for the woodland scene was painted on wallpaper, creating a lovely picture eighteen by eight feet. The painting was done by the following members: Mrs. C. E. Larson, Mrs. M. K. Walsh, Mrs. Roce Jones, Mrs. C. J. Metzler, and Mr. F. K. Shook.

The floor under the plants was protected by tarpaulians, newspapers and roofing

The Greenhouse
Exhibit
by
Mrs. A. B. Bowman

material. The scene was built up in back with crushed cardboard boxes covered with bedspreads and shower curtains. Next came peat moss and eight bushels of woods moss which was gathered several days prior to the exhibit and kept watered. Peat moss and the woods moss were used around the violets to cover the clay pots. Dozens of ferns were dug the day before the exhibit and used with logs, stones and house plants, such as philodendron, ivy, avocado trees, and episcias. There were approximately one hundred twenty-five blooming violets.

The woodland scene covered an area of about eighteen by eight feet. Members of the committee were: Mrs. D. J. Mahegan, chairman, Mrs. R. M. Branch, co-chairman, Mrs. Roy Vineyard, Mrs. John Price, and Mrs. Thomson.

METROPOLITAN AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

Left to right, Mrs. Hoy Jr., Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Swanson, Mrs. Husted, Mrs. Blackburn and Mr. Johnson.

The Metropolitan African Violet Club brought its winter season to a close with the June meeting. The seedling project, initiated by our president, Mrs. J. Raymond Hoy, Jr., and taken care of by Mrs. Martha Husted, brought satisfactory results at this meeting, when the thriving plants were distributed to our members. A record of

ownership, by numbers, is being kept for future reference. This fall we plan to show the seedlings at one of our meetings, to see who drew the winners.

Another of the winter projects proved very worth while, much to the satisfaction of the members. Early last fall, it was suggested by Mrs. Husted that the members donate their excess plants to the patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital as a source of interest and occupation. This program was enthusiastically accepted by the members, and recently the club received personal thanks from some of the doctors at the hospital. We have heard that these violets have become an important interest in the lives of these patients, who have learned not only to care for the larger plants, but how to propagate from leaves and raise small plants. A copy of the hospital paper was sent to us in which appeared an article written by one of the patients on the subject "The Fad of Growing African Violets."

At the spring show held downtown in the attractively suitable rooms of the Engineers Club, a large number of gorgeous plants were exhibited and properly appreciated.

The winner of the Sweepstakes Cup for award of the largest number of ribbons was Mrs. A. N. Carter. The Best-in-the-Show plant was Mrs. Martha Husted's Blue Snow. For second and third Best-in-Show were, respectively, Mrs. A. N. Carter's Blue Bonnet and her Neptune. These prizes were silver compotes in graduating sizes. The plant winning the popularity contest from votes of the visitors was Mrs. Martha Husted's Blue Eyed Girl.

Featured was an exhibit of novelty arrangements showing cleverness and imagination. Various foliage plants were combined with African violets in all sorts of containers, bowls, aquariums, oddly shaped pieces of driftwood and silver compotes. The winner of the novel arrangements was Mrs. Eunice Mercer.

For this fall, the invitation of the National Capital Canary Club to join them in exhibiting plants and holding a plant sale at their annual show in November has been accepted.

ROCHESTER AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

The African violet species exhibit.

The third annual show of the African Violet Society of Rochester and Vicinity was held on May 6th at the Museum of Arts & Science. The attendance was the largest for an African Violet Show held in this section of the country, and one reporter likened the Museum to a beehive with all the people flocking in to see the violets. At times streets were blocked and parking space was indeed at a premium.

Approximately 350 plants were exhibited in the cultural classes, with many entries in the decorative classes. Mrs. Leslie D. Perry of Brier Hill, Pa., Mrs. Elroy Coniber of Batavia, N. Y., Mrs. Frank G. Copeland, Port Credit, Ontario, Canada, and Mr. Karl E. Lewis of Lockport, N. Y., were the cultural class judges. Miss Mary Terruli and Mrs. Walter E. Miller of Rochester, N. Y., judged the decorative classes.

Queen of the Show Award was given to Mrs. A. H. Ricketson of North Chili, N. Y., for her beautiful plant of Double Neptune. Mrs. Ricketson also won the sweepstakes award, winning the most blue ribbons in the cultural classes.

The detailed display on propagation, with Mrs. Charles Anthony and Mrs. Carey Ostrander in charge, and also the commercial exhibits, proved most popular.

Mrs. Joseph E. Weber of Rochester was chairman of the show.

Blue Girl

Lady Geneva

CHICAGO SHOW

The First African Violet Society of Chicago held its first show on May 16th at Mayfair Park Fieldhouse. This was the first show of its kind in this area and created a tremendous demand for information which is still being felt even though it was open to the public for just six hours.

Approximately a thousand guests attended, not only from Chicago and suburbs but from every section of Illinois. Other states represented were Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

There were three hundred plants on display which included over one hundred varieties.

Purple ribbons were awarded for unusual exhibits to Mrs. Claude E. Greely and Mrs. F. J. Petrick, members of the original Chicago society.

Left to right, Mrs. Fowkes, Mrs. Trendler and Mrs. Greeley.

Judges were Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois and Mrs. Theodore Rosenak of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The propagation and seedling exhibits attracted considerable attention and kept the members in charge busy answering questions etc., continually.

GREENVILLE CLUB SHOW

"Though April Showers" did come our way down in Greenville, S. C., none was so refreshing and colorful as the one which, on April 9, rained violets.

Even Al Jolson could hardly have been more convincing than members of the Greenville African Violet Club, that it was "raining violets" at the club's annual African Violet Show.

With "It's Raining Violets", theme of the show, in large letters on a lavender placard which was suspended in the center of the show room, narrow purple ribbon streamers, with bunches of violets in each, rained down from the central back-drop.

The 212 entries in the show included about 60 varieties of violets and 10 classes.

Most outstanding in the show were the "violets in unusual containers." Mrs. Homer Derrick, show chairman and sweepstakes winner, displayed a violet plant in an antique music box which she acquired in London on a recent trip. The first selection listed on the old music box was "Sweet Violets."

The wedding shoe worn by the mother of an exhibitor, and her own baby shoe, also served as containers for violets.

The theme of the Greenville, S. C., African Violet Show was suspended from the center of the show room and rained streamers with violet bouquets.

Mrs. W. B. Mulligan, whose mountain friend gave her this old coffee grinder puts it to the same use most any violet enthusiast would.

The first selection on this antique music box arrangement by Mrs. Homer Derrick is "Sweet Violets." An appropriate container!

Other containers were moustache cups, coffee grinders, pipes, iron pots and copper kettles, an old tree stump, miniature cradles and even a miniature still.

Coffee and tea table arrangements were set in spring pastels with violets as the predominating decorations. Shades of white to pink and mauve to intense purple were in arrangements complementing choices of linen and china.

Flowers were judged by horticulture standards as well as on arrangement and originality and there was an exhibit by a local grower on soil and seeds with examples of suggested methods of propagation.

The show was staged in Greenville's rustic Sears Shelter -- a natural for violets -- with Mrs. J. W. Brabham and Mrs. Leon Kimmel as staging co-chairmen.

Mrs. Ed Copeland is immediate past president of the Greenville African Violet Club and Mrs. J. W. Brabham is the new president. The club has sixty-six members.

SPRINGFIELD SHOW

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Del. County, Pennsylvania, held its Third Annual Show in the Community Methodist Church on May 5, 1951.

Thirty-eight of the one hundred seventy-five plants displayed were new varieties developed in the last year.

The arrangement classes created quite a bit of interest. They included arrangements suitable for centerpieces, hall tables, violets in containers not ordinarily used for plants, and miniature arrangements.

Mrs. Ralph Frye was in charge of the propagation table, showing the methods of rooting leaves and raising plants from seed.

The following members were in charge of the show:

Mrs. Howard Morris,	President
Mrs. R. J. Schadewald,	Chairman
Mrs. J. Wrigley,	Schedule
Mrs. W. L. Becker,	Staging
Mrs. J. Gross,	Entries
Mrs. P. Filing	Classification
Mrs. V. J. Turner,	Publicity
Mrs. James Craig,	Hospitality
Mrs. Wm. Eister,	Plant Sale
Mrs. D. B. Jarvis,	Plant Sale

Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Awards Committee Chairman, and The Silver Cup Award

The Silver Cup Award

This is the Silver Cup that is to be awarded to the best registered name plant entered in the Convention Show in Chicago, April 24, 25 and 26, 1952.

The Award of Merit Ribbons (Blue) and the Honorable Mention Ribbons (Red) will be awarded to the runner up plants in this class.

Your officers and convention committee are planning a "bigger and better than ever before" show for our next convention.

The Awards Committee, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Mr. John Good and Mrs. Raymond Crosby planned these awards.

So begin now to ready your plants and bring your best registered name plant to the Convention. You may win the coveted Silver Cup!

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

I have had a number of inquiries regarding "hybrid" African violets. The general opinion is that all of our violets are hybrids with the exception of the first ones that were brought to this country. The question is -- "Why are certain violets sold as 'hybrids'?" Mr. C. W. Fischer Jr. of Fischer's Nurseries has given his explanation, which you will find in the "Answers" column.

Since the "strawberry jar" has become so popular for planting African violets, I have had letters asking where these jars can be bought. I bought my jar several years ago, at the Monmouth Illinois Pottery, but they inform me they no longer make them. If anyone knows where these may be obtained, I'll appreciate your sending me a card.

When sending in your question, don't forget to enclose a postage stamp or stamped return envelope.

QUESTIONS

I have several Blue Boy violets -- one two years old ond one a young plant. Both were in full bloom and looked fine. Then in a day or two they began to wilt and leaves curled around the edges. Now my White Lady is doing the same thing. I disposed of the old plant, but took up the young plant and washed the dirt from the roots which looked all right. I've had violets for five years but never had anything like this before. Will appreciate your help.

Mrs. W. H. Bower, Ky.

So far I have been very fortunate with my violets, but there has been one thing puzzling me. What causes my mature plants to develop such a long crown? They push out of the ground in spite of my repotting, and even cutting them off and replanting.

Edna C. Shaffer, Ill.

I would like to know, should the stem be taken off after the flowers drop off -- or let it drop off itself? I have been told it would injure the plant if I took them off.

I have a plant that is healthy looking but the leaves tend to hug the pot. They don't look droopy -- just hang down. All my other plants have leaves standing up or straight out. I have been wondering if something could be wrong.

Mrs. Irwin Jackson,Pa.

Is there a definite advantage or disadvantage to self-pollination of a plant?

Is there any reliable program for mite prevention that is less dangerous to use than sodium selenate?

Is there another violet ailment that resembles mites? A year ago I planted seed and got some nice plants but once in a while a plant turns up that has all the symptoms of mites -- curled leaves at crown, blossoms streaked with white, which are small and drop prematurely. However, this condition does not spread to other normal healthy plants on the same table. So far, I have merely disposed of these plants instead of treating them in any way.

Mrs. Robert C. Nicholson, D. C.

Can you tell me the proper way to pollinate violets? Some of mine take and some don't, so maybe I'm not doing it the best way.

Mrs. Lawrence Young, Calif

Why do some leaves put down in plant medium produce plants in a few months and other leaves take longer? From several leaves planted at the same time, one produced plants and the other just roots. Why is this?

Aileen Bell, Kans.

ANSWERS

Most all of our violets are hybrids. However, the pure species, such as Ionantha, Grotei, etc., would not be considered hybrid varieties.

It is my understanding that most of the commercial greenhouse varieties have been developed through a cross breeding program, evidence of their hybrid characteristics.

Varieties that have developed through sporting (i.e. the original double) are not considered hybrid types. However, sports are in general cross pollenated also, so

again, it is my belief that most of the present types, with exception of species, should be regarded as "hybrid varieties."

C. W. Fischer, Jr., N. J.

Starting Leaves

To Mrs. Otto Jauch, Minn.

Leaves cut in the Cancer sign of the Zodiac will root nicely in water without rotting. I use this sign and seldom lose a leaf. The sign "Virgo" is also good. For transplanting, I use either of these signs and when necessary, the congenial signs of Taurus, Gemini, Aries, Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Libra, but mostly Capricorn, if I cannot get this work done in the Cancer sign.

Mrs. A. C. Vieth, Iowa

To Mrs. Otto Jauch, Minn.

I think it is better to wait for plants to be separated after they finish blooming, although I have done it while they were in bloom. This may slacken the blooming for a while but it will soon start again and won't harm the plant. The best way is to separate the plants when they are small or before they start blooming.

As to the flowers dropping off some plants sooner than others, I have found it is just the nature of some plants to do this. The flowers on my Doubles never drop off. I have to pick them off when they are wilted. On other plants I think flowers are open about a week before they fall off, but are generally fresh looking when they do drop off.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Long Bare Stalk

To Mrs. Howard W. Snyder, N. Y.

As a plant grows and new leaves form in the center, it is natural for the outer leaves to gradually wilt and come off. After a number of leaves have been taken off and as the plant grows, the result is a long bare stalk under the plant. The plant eventually gets topheavy and is inclined to lean on to one side, and if nothing is done, you will soon have a large plant hanging over the side of the pot. To me this is anything but a pretty sight. If one wants to keep the plant this stalk should be cut off about an inch below the plant and rerooted in water, and then repotted. The best plan, when a plant gets to this stage, is to take a few leaves and start new plant, and throw the old plant away. Young plants are so much prettier.

Laura Mason, Ind.

Plant Dying After Blooming

To Rose Mary Peeling, Md.

When a plant blooms profusely, the pot is usually full of roots and needs moisture. However, if the soil is not loose enough and doesn't have good drainage, it may stay too wet and cause root rot. Either being too dry or too wet can cause a plant to wilt. From my experience, I can keep the soil most evenly moist by watering a little from the top and a little from the bottom.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Sodium Selenate

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

When using Sodium Selenate, it is best to have the soil damp. Why don't you try Optox or N. N. O. R. neither of which are poisonous, and these are really effective. I dip my plants occasionally in N. N. O. R. and spray them about once a month, and they keep healthy.

Milton Mack, Ark.

Wobbly Plants

To Mrs. James Easson, Kans.

Contrary to Mr. Miller's belief, I am quite sure all plants that become wobbly in the pot do not have nematodes. After taking up a number of my plants, I found good healthy roots and no nematodes. I put small stones around the stalk of the plant to keep it from wobbling. My Redheaded Girl now has 75 blossoms with the stones holding the plant in place.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

Flower Drop After Watering

To Harry Gensemer, Ill.

Personally, I've never had my flowers drop prematurely but have read that escaping gas, low humidity, too much fertilizer, or lack of fresh air will cause the buds to fall before opening. And that too much nitrogen in the soil will cause this right after watering. It is possible you do not have a well balanced soil mixture.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Gas Heat

To Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

I have heard several people say that as soon as they turn on their gas furnaces in the fall, their violets stop blooming. We heat our home with gas and also cook with it, but my flowers continue to bloom profusely all winter. It would, therefore, seem to me there must be gas escaping from the furnace, if it affects the flowers or else there is not enough fresh air in the house.

Mrs. L. Jensen, Iowa

Pollination

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

When seed pods mature, the plant does not die. When I found I could successfully

Cont. on page 57

REGISTRATION REPORT . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I.

The following applications have been received during the period April 1, 1951 to June 25, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

Christina 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Blue Delaware 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Miss Liberty 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Tinari's Pink 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Wine Velvet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Helen Wilson Bouquet 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Lacy Bouquet 4-29-51	Tinari Floral Gardens Bethayres, Penna.
Marine Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Navy Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Norseman Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Ruby Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Semi-Double Blue Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Velvet Bouquet 4-29-51	Frank A. Tinari Valley Road Bethayres, Penna.
Pink DuPont 5-21-51	Oliver H. Pease 1913 Tonawanda Ave. Akron 5, Ohio

Christina and Blue Delaware were originated by Mrs. W. K. duPont and are so listed on the Registration Application. Sufficient documentary evidence was submitted to show that she had granted to Tinari's the right to introduce the plants.

The above applications are being published without plant descriptions because the announcement that descriptions would be required in the future had not been published when they were received. All subsequent applications will be accompanied by descriptions.

PART II.

These four applications were originally attached to the June 1951 Report as being published under Committee protest. Publication of this section was missed. That turns out to have been a fortunate error as the questionable points have since been resolved. They are now published with no strings attached but in a separate section to indicate that the actual date of application merited earlier publication.

Oriental Girl 1-9-51	Mrs. Ferne Kellar 1223 East Oak Park Des Moines 16, Iowa
Perfection 2-12-51	Miss Edith B. Hendrix 9927 East Howland Av Temple City, Cal.
Periwinkle Girl 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert 3114 Charles St. Omaha, Nebr.
Red Girl Champion 2-1-51	Mrs. Lela Reichert 3114 Charles St. Omaha, Nebr.

PART III

There is a correction to be made in the June Report. The name listed as "Jinaro" should have been "Jivaro." This resulted from mis-reading a written application and points up the desirability of filling out applications with typewriter as requested.

Also, it would help materially if women would designate whether "Mrs." or "Miss" should be applied to their name.

PART IV.

Three matters, brought up by the Registration Committee, were reviewed and acted

upon by the Board during the Convention series of meetings. All were approved.

1. Name reservation, as announced in the June Report.
2. Requiring of written descriptions pointing out superiority before Applications would be received, also as announced in the June issue.
3. Defining the minimum number of vegetative reproductions that a plant must have gone before an Application for Registration can be received on it as two, that is, no matter what the method of origination of the plant (seedling, sport, mutation, or otherwise) it must have gone through two successive reproductions from cuttings before it can be registered.

PART V

Name Reservation

The response to the announcement concerning name reservation has been gratifying. The following names have been reserved to date:

Aida
Angel Girl
Angelica
Angelon
Arrowhead
Blue Eyed Sue
Bluette
Bright Angel
Bright Regent
Bugle Girl
Cambria
Carolyn R.
Charmion
Cherub
Dainty Girl
Daddy's Girl
Dawnflower
Delight
First Love
Frosty
Frosty Girl
Gaucho
General Mac
Georgette
Golondrina
Helen's Girl
Hortense
Jerry's Boy
Juno
Lady Esther
Lady Inez
Maple Girl
Maroon Girl
Masquerade
Miss Edna
Morning Glory
Moro
Mount Hood
Narbonne
Oakleaf Girl
Orchid Fringe
Pacific Redwood
Petite
Pinafore
Pink Eyed Girl
Pocahontas
Queen Elizabeth
Ramona
Redbud
Rose Perfection
Rosetta
Ruby Jewel
Red Spoon Girl
Surprise
Tom Thumb
Trumpet Girl
Valentine

It should be noted that while plants are in existence to which these names are tentatively being applied the plants as such are not available. Many of them are still first generation seedlings which have not been adequately observed to establish their worth.

PART VI

In order that requests for name reservation can be checked as adequately as possible for conflict with prior use of the same or similar names it is necessary that the Master File of Varieties be as complete as possible. To this end, assistance has been secured in enlarging the File.

1. All commercial lists are to be abstracted by Solange Slivka, and a card made out for each new name encountered. She wants to review all commercial lists issued since April, 1950. So if you are a commercial grower, wholesale or retail, or a home seller of either plants or leaves, and have issued a list since April, 1950, please send copies of all lists issued since then to:

Mrs. Solange Slivka
N. Ohio St.
Fayette, Ohio

2. All other name lists that can be made available will be reviewed by Lois Minehan. Many individuals have extensive lists that they have made for their own use. Some excellent lists circulate with the Pigeons. If you have such a list, or access to one, please send it to:

Mrs. James W. Minehan
29 Circuit Drive
Binghamton, N. Y.

Any new names that appear on the lists will be placed on cards for the File, and the lists returned.

Steps 1 and 2 above will lead to accumulation of considerable information on duplicates, regional and otherwise. We expect to have further announcements to make in this regard in the December Report.

PART VII

Registrations Become Permanent

The protest period on all varieties published in 1950 has now ended. With the exception of one variety, Periwinkle, on which a protest was received and which has not yet been resolved, all plants listed in Part 1 of the 1950 Reports are now permanently registered.

The plants listed in Part 2 of the September 1950 Report are not included. Further comparison or data will be necessary to settle the questions involved concerning them.

Mrs. St. John Takes a Vacation

R. E. Memberthis

This is for fun . . . Editor

Vacations are nice, -- that is, if you can come home and rest awhile before getting into the groove, but the minute she stepped in the door, poor Mrs. St. John saw she would be in a deep rut for days. But, let's go back to the beginning of things.

It was the St. John's first real vacation in ten years, and what a vacation it was to be! Mr. St. John had won a sales contest and the prize was a month at the "Costs-You-Nothing" Family Resort. Mrs. St. John was ecstatically happy until the sickening thought, "What'll I do with my African violets?" brought her back down to earth. Evidently, she was thinking out loud, for her neighbor, Mrs. Ineeda Fixit, heard the query and offered her services.

"After all, Mrs. St. John, you kept our dog while I was in the hospital when Archy was born in 1945, and you tended the furnace when we were away that week in January last year, and the days on end that you have kept my children while I played Canasta, -- why I OWE it to you. I'll take care of your violets just like you do. Goodess knows, I've watched you do it often enough -- I SHOULD know how!"

So, much relieved, Mrs. St. John gave the care of her beloved saintpaulias to Mrs. Ineeda Fixit. The day they were ready to leave, Mrs. St. John called to Mrs. Fixit, "You won't have to bother with the plants before Thursday. I have them all fed and watered, and if you follow the schedule I have written out for you, you'll have no trouble."

That was Monday morning -- 9 a. m.

"I won't have to bother with them until Thursday -- hmmmm," pondered Ineeda. "I might check on them before that; I wouldn't want anything to happen."

At precisely 9:27 a.m., Mrs. Fixit decided that it was time to check. Maybe there might be a plant Mrs. St. John missed, and by Thursday it would be dead if it didn't get a drink, -- a check wouldn't hurt a thing.

Trotting next door, she glanced at the schedule, -- "Plants in Wik-fed pots will go ten days to two weeks before they will need water. Tray of plants set in sand on table at dining-room window will take about two quarts of warm water every four days. --"

"I wonder why Mrs. St. John thought I needed this schedule?" Mrs. Fixit said aloud, though there was no one to hear. "I know as much about them as she does. Sometime I'm going to have a violet myself -- when I have time to give it the care it needs -- . Now, let's see, she says Wik-fed pots are OK until Thursday of next week. This one certainly doesn't look wet enough to me. Here, Posy, I'll give you a drink from the top. Ooops! Where'd the flood come from? Did I crack the pot? Oh golly, this top lifts off the base - and it's FULL of water. Why didn't she tell me Wik-fed pots are in two pieces, Now I know! Anyway Posy, you got a good drink didn't you?"

"Now, you poor little dear over here in the corner. I have pitied you for a long time, you pretty little White Baby. You would like to be over at this other window, wouldn't you? There, well see how you like the nice warm sunshine. I don't know why Mrs. St. John never has any plants at this window; there isn't a window on this street gets more sun!"

"You -- up on the top shelf with all the dead flower stems -- let's tend to you. I always thought stems should be removed after the blossoms fall, and here you are loaded with stems. And DRY!! Why, you poor soul, when have you had a drink? Just be patient until I get these old stems all pulled off, then we'll get a vegetable dish and give you a good soaking. There, now you look better," and in nothing flat, Mrs. Ineeda Fixit went to the kitchen and was back with the water. "Now, let's see the schedule again. 'PLANT ON TOP SHELF HAS SEED-PODS, DO NOT DISTURB'," read Mrs. Fixit, as she blacked-out. After she recovered from the shock, she sat down and carefully read all the remaining instructions before doing any more checking.

" 'Casserole on shelf in pantry contains newly planted seed. It need not be touched at any time.' O.K. casserole, we won't touch you! Everything else seems under control, so I guess I can go home," thought Mrs. Fixit, as she locked the back door.

Once back home, Mrs. Fixit re-read the schedule. There wasn't a word about feeding the plants. In a month they would starve, she was sure, so she decided to try a little experiment and surprise Mrs. St. John. Af-

ter all, just because she didn't have any violets herself didn't keep Mrs. Fixit from reading all about them, or from listening to all the "This-is-the-way-I-do-it" stories. "I'll try some of those new tricks," she thought, so when Thursday came, she carefully collected: one jar each of cold black coffee, strong tea, egg-shell water, orange juice, some soot from the furnace, one Vigoro tablet, and the milk that was left in the cat's dish. From Mrs. St. John's supplies she got a jar of sheep tea.

"Hello, Posy dears," she chirped as she entered the room. "I have a big surprise for you. Let's start right here with you, Neptune. You shall have a big drink of sheep-tea. Gee, this looks awful black, but I was most careful to check the label on the jug, and I know it said 'Concentrated Sheep-tea', so drink 'er down, Neppie . . ."

"Next, let's try some coffee. Mrs. St. John never tries any new ideas like this, but I read somewhere that it didn't hurt them a bit. Here, Ruffles, you may have the coffee -- whoops, some spilled on the new rug. Wait'll I get a rag and clean it up . . . There, now Blue Eyes, how would you like a cup of plain Orange Pekoe tea? Oh, you want sugar in it? O.K., sugar you shall have," she sang as she dashed to the kitchen again. "I must get some violets for myself. They really are fun to work with," she mused.

"Blue Boy, you look like a good healthy little guinea-pig. You try the egg-shell water. Now, don't fret, Blue Girl, I have orange juice for you. Who wants a pill? Let's see, you over there with the high-falutin' name and tiny skinny stems, Diplow -- Diplo-treeka, - -is that how you pronounce it? You can't fool me, you're Kewensis, and you need a pill. We'll have your stems as thick as duPont Blue by the time your mama gets home. Hold still so I can get this real close to your roots; I want it to work fast."

"Pink Beauty, the book said soot will make you pinker -- we'll see -- Now, duPont Lavender Pink, you look dusty. How would you like a milk bath? I've never bathed a violet before, so don't mind if I'm a bit dumb about it. There isn't enough milk here to dunk you, so I'll just pour it over you. -- Come on, milk, run off. I didn't expect you to stay on the leaves. So, you won't run off? O.K. then, stay on," and with that outburst, Mrs. Fixit left the milk to get off the leaves in its own slow way. Finished with her experiments, Mrs. Fixit watered the remaining plants and went home.

The next scheduled visit was Monday, but Friday, Mrs. Fixit thought, inasmuch as she was finished with her own work, it wouldn't hurt to take a peep at the plants before starting downtown. She went over and . . . . "Heavenly days!" she yelled, as she saw the poor little plant which she had put to soak, "You sure ought to be watered by now! There . . . back on your shelf you go . . . . I suppose Mrs. St. John will be furious that I pulled off your seed pods, but how was I to know? . . . I hadn't read that far! Everyone else O.K.? . . . Hi ya, sweetie! How do you feel in that nice warm sun? See you all Monday."

Careful inspection Monday revealed no appreciable difference in the look of most of the plants. Diplotricha looked a little wilted, so it got a vegetable dish watering to pep it up; duPont Lavender Pink was a slight mess! The milk had been none too sweet to begin with, and it had soured all down in the crown of the plant. Mrs. Fixit felt slightly weak, but the only thing to do was to give it a bath . . . so she started out to the kitchen sink; on the way another BETTER idea caught up with her, "Why not give it a shower?"

So, placing the plant in the bath tub, Mrs. Fixit turned on the water. The first "squirt" knocked the plant over, and the snap, crackle and pop of leaves breaking off sounded just like pouring milk on a bowl of Rice Krispies. Not thinking about the shower, Mrs. Fixit dived for the plant and would have retrieved it, except that, at the moment she touched it, the spray of cold water hit her on the back of the neck, she lost her balance, and when she finally recovered, she was sitting in the bathtub with her feet dangling out over the edge. Ineeda Fixit was a mess, surpassed only by duPont Lavender Pink!! How she turned off the water, cleaned up the bathroom and herself is not too clear, but her senses fully returned when she realized she had thrown duPont Lavender Pink in the garbage with never a thought of saving a few leaves to root. Oh, well . . . . .

Not to be outdone by an ole violet, Mrs. Fixit changed clothes and continued her duties. Since the concentrated sheep tea, coffee, egg-shell water and Orange Pekoe tea (with sugar) had not had any noticeable effects on the plants to which they had been given, she decided to change the "diets." This time, Ruffles got a gulp of sheep tea, Blue Boy sipped Orange Pekoe tea with sugar, and Neptune reluctantly drank egg-shell water. Pink Beauty continued to get soot. She certainly should be near red by the time the family returned! Diplotricha

was definitely not pepped up by the vegetable dish of water, so, on the opposite side from the Vigoro pill, she got an Aspirin. "That ought to have you well by Thursday, dear," cooed Mrs. Fixit, as she packed her belongings.

As Mrs. Fixit didn't believe in trying everything on each plant, she decided to repeat the first week's treatment for two more weeks. Surely, something would happen . . . Diplotricha didn't need any more pills; she was too ill for them. In fact, if a flower can go into a coma, she was in a deep one!!

The day before the St. Johns were scheduled to return home, Mrs. Fixit gave the plants a final check. It didn't take an expert to see that Diplotricha was dead -- so much for her, -- duPont Lavender Pink was conspicuous by her absence. Little White Baby, after four weeks of summer sun, had brown splotches on all the leaves that weren't already dead. Ineeda Fixit couldn't understand this . . . . the plant simply couldn't have had any more sun than she had given it. Ruffles, Neptune, Blue Eyes, and Blue Boy each looked as if they had just won a pie-eating contest and had received a pie as a prize. They weren't seriously ill, but they didn't look too good after their bi-weekly feedings. Pink Beauty was in soot to her ankles, but her color hadn't changed much.

Just as she was leaving, the St. Johns drove up. "Oh hello, folks, I just finished fixing your violets. Sorry I don't have time to tell you more, but I feel I should get away for awhile. So -- I'm leaving on the afternoon train for six weeks on the coast, and I really must rush!"

"Thanks a million," called Mrs. St. John, but Mrs. Fixit was out of earshot by then.

Mercifully, she was spared seeing the look on Mrs. St. John's face when she opened the front door, glanced at her beloved violets and collapsed on a chair!

African Violets

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5 YEARS SHIPPING VIOLETS

35 YEARS SHIPPING HARDY PLANTS

SOME OF THE FINEST NEW VARIETIES

RAINBOW ROSE, ORCHID SUNSET, RAINBOW DELIGHT, DARK BEAUTY, AZURE BEAUTY, DOUBLE ORCHID GIRL, DOUBLE SAILORS DELIGHT, DOUBLE SEA GIRL, DOUBLE ORCHID NEPTUNE, BLUE HEIRESS, LACY GIRL, RED KING, ROSE MARIE, WHITE PRINCE, DARK RED HEAD and many others.

Large 3 inch pots in bud and in bloom. Also many moderate priced varieties in 2 inch pots.

WIK-FED POTS, FERT-L-FED POTS, PROP-R-FED PLANTERS, POTTING SOIL, GRO-MOR PLANT FOOD, BOOKS.

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THE HARMON NURSERY

PROSPECT, OHIO

A HORTICULTURIST LOOKS AT SAINTPAULIAS

Cont. from Page 25

and bathroom and which is published in my book ALL ABOUT HOUSE PLANTS. I got the formula (with due acknowledgement) from the book "Chemical Gardening for the Amateur," by Dr. Conhors and Dr. Tiedjens. I am not saying that this is not effective, and it is interesting to speculate whether it is the baking powder which kills them by blowing them up or the flavor of the epsom salts which causes them to gag themselves to death!"

Mr. Free discovered many other statements about saintpaulia culture that will not hold water, such as: dehydration of manure will kill weed seeds; spraying or dusting D.D.T. on pots will cure plants infested with nematodes; variegation is apt to be continued through seedlings; variegation is not apt to be continued through seedlings. One of these last two statements is obviously wrong.

For a long time the new collection of plants with which Mr. Free was conducting his observations was disgustingly healthy, and for a time he was worried for fear he might have to get his "pest" information second-hand. Then one happy day (???) he found mites on Myrtle (not Mrs. Radtke) and not being particularly careful to avoid contaminating other plants, he soon had half of his collection of 100 plants infested with mites. He later learned that nematodes were also a problem. His present policy is to sterilize the soil, discard and destroy by burning nematode-infested plants and soil, treat the mites with a rotenone preparation, and, if that is not effective, to rely on selenation as a last resort.

In concluding his address, Mr. Free stated, "I have worked in botanic gardens for around forty years, and in the course of that time have become fairly well acquainted with a large number of different kinds of plants, and for many years devoted special attention to those which can be grown in homes. In all my experience I have never come across any plant so tolerant in cultural matter as the saintpaulia. I personally am a middle-of-the-road-man; I like the plants not too wet, not too dry. I water from either top or bottom . . . which ever way is more convenient and does the least damage to the furniture!" Finally, he compared saintpaulia fans to a one-man dog. I wonder if the day will ever come (and stranger things HAVE happened) when Montague Free will forget all about his other house plants and will fill his veins with the "violet" blood of his fellow saintpaulians and saintpauliannes."

- TO WATER -

Lift planter and pour water into reservoir

(base)

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(PAT. PEND.)

Wick-Fed, Self-Watering, Self-Aerating

for your

AFRICAN VIOLETS

All we ask is that you purchase one of our WICK PLANTERS and try one of your choice plants in it. After that we feel the planter itself will so convince you of its worth that you will not be satisfied until you have one for each of your African Violet plants.

The Kellems Wick Planter is made from fine Ceramic materials, is designed to look well in the better parts of your home and is based on scientific principles to grow exceptionally fine plants.

Ask your favorite Flower Store to show you the Kellems Planters. If he doesn't stock them at present, he can order them for you from our factory listed below.

KELLEMS—PASADENA

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Display at E. Tennessee Valley Fair. Photos by Ross Hahn

WORK PAYS OFF...

Naomi Cotton, Tenn.

"The show must go on" and it was show time for the Tennessee Valley African Violet Club. This was our big moment! The time, April 20, 1951. The place, Central Methodist Church recreation room. Our show chairman, Mrs. J. P. Deal.

Our plans were all made and we were confident, maybe over confident, but then I'd better tell you of some of our past experience so you'll know why we felt so smug and sure of ourselves.

Tennessee Valley African Violet Club was so very fortunate as to have been sponsored by Knoxville Saintpaulia Society and to have had the help and advice of nationally known violet lovers such as Alma Wright, Eva Rule, Kitty Lee Richards, Rose and Ross Hahn, Mary Parker, Eleanor Cox, and Jean Hilliard.

Then, too, our first annual violet show was the first competitive show ever to be held in Knoxville. Our past year had been so successful financially that we became almost boastful in telling of it. Our very capable finance chairman, Mrs. Lester Hammer, had carefully planned and carried through two money making schemes and were we proud of her and of our bank book!

Maybe we were a little reluctant to part with the huge sum of $40.00 to pay for the rental of a fair booth in September, 1950. But with her ability to see ahead, plan, and work, work, work, we became fired with ambition and enthusiasm. Plants for display, and plants and leaves to sell were donated by members. Mr. C. H. Thompson, husband of a member made us a miniature window and shelves and Esther Bussell made us an organdy curtain for it. Everyone brought her prettiest containers and for one week we worked in teams on day and night shifts to make it a success. Leaves were sold for 35 cents each. Plants were priced according to size, age, condition and bloom. Everything sold out like the proverbial hot cakes.

Members were soon stripping their window shelves and plants for more to sell. And the questions we answered! We found the public so eager to learn how to grow African violets that we evolved the idea of an educational table, but I will tell you more about that later

Our good friends, Mayo Brothers Feed and Seed Stores, helped us in our booth and supplied various packages of the essentials for violet growers. Packages of Vermiculite, Hyponex, Optox, soil, and pamphlets were displayed on a table, along with a small plastic green house belonging to a member. We were given a few hundred mimeographed copies of instructions on how to grow African violets and these were given out in less than an hour, but the requests came in for copies for the rest of the week. Questions about diseases, soil, and sprays were answered to the best of our ability. We were hoarse and tired when the week was over, but so proud of having had our booth acclaimed a drawing card for the fair. Actually we felt we were in the middle of the midway. Did we make any money? Ahem! Just $121 clear!

For a month we just relaxed and planned how to spend our money. We investigated needy families and various charitable organizations, and became so enthusiastic that we decided we could have more fun if we had more money to spend. Mrs. Hammer again came forth with a successful money making scheme.

Above, Mrs. Hahn and Mrs. Hammer.
Below, Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Deal and Mrs. Johnson.

"Girl" exhibit at benefit party.

New KAPSULATE*

* A COMBINATION OF SODIUM SELENATE plus SOLUBLE plus FERTILIZER IN CAPSULES

1 Box of 18 KAPSULATES at $1.25 plus one - 20 ounce size of High Concentrate Soluble Plantfood 15-30-15 at $1.00

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9 KAPSULATES plus one - 7 ounce High Concentrate 15-30-15 Liquid Plantfood at $1.00

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Obtainable through your Florist, Supply Dealer, Seed House and Garden Shop or order direct from us.

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McKEESPORT, PENNA.

On October 18, we had our Benefit Card Party and violet exhibit at Whittle Springs Hotel. There were fifty tables for bridge and canasta. Candy, small violet plants and leaves were sold. Mrs. Charles Shults and Mrs. Nelle Cunningham enlarged upon the idea of an educational table started at the fair and demonstrated various methods of rooting and growing plants. Merchants and other friends donated prizes and articles to be sold. Members made candy to be sold and others gave small plants and leaves. Even the weather man was generous with a lovely autumn day with golden maple leaves drifting lazily down outside the windows to make beautiful contrast for our violets.

Our Exhibits were arranged around the club room. One table featured violets in novelty containers. One was a display of girl violets with miniature dolls dressed as girls in hooped pastel dresses. Another display was a farmyard scene with various animal containers of violets, including a hired man doll with a patch on his trousers. Still another display showed a park scene with a miniature swimming pool, swing etc. surrounded by huge violet plants in full bloom. There were several exhibits of violets classified as to color and these brought forth "ohs" and sighs from our guests.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the bridge and canasta, but eyes were seen to stray back to the violet exhibit. This venture as I have said was highly successful, netting us $160.00. We now had enough money to carry on our club and charity work as we had planned. We allotted $75.00 for our needy family and donated $25.00 to a boy's club.

Having successfully completed the projects described above we naturally faced our April show with confidence. The curtain has now been rung down on that show and I can report that it too was a success. Mrs. J. P. Deal carefully picked her chairmen and everyone worked. The educational feature again proved interesting to the public. Displays of pictures from the African Violet Magazine were used to show diseases of plants. Disease control was explained and many questions were answered. Posters showing soil mixtures, fertilizers, and watering methods were eye catching. This was a most complete display -- even to a glass jar of tired little springtails!!

There was a woodland scene with violets in a natural setting. A table of new varieties brought sighs of envy from members and guests alike. There was a display for non-members. Other clubs also entered

Cont. on page 59

Activities of the - - -

African Violet Club of Montreal

An article entitled "African Violets," by Helen Van Pelt Wilson, in the Women's Day Magazine in November, 1948 was partly responsible for the founding of the now flourishing African Violet Club of Montreal.

One evening in May 1949, a group of ladies were working in their garden plot in the Notre Dame de Grace Garden Park and talk was turned to African violets. The possibility of a local club was discussed, with the result that the President of the West End Horticulture Society appointed Mrs. L. H. Davies and Mrs. G. A. Goddard as co-chairmen towards starting a group for those interested in African violets.

A meeting was called June 8, 1949 under the sponsorship of the West End Horticulture Society and the African Violet Club of Montreal was formed, with the following officers elected:

President,	Mrs. L. H. Davies
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. H. Robinson
Secretary,	Mrs. H. D. Hunting
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. E. Robinson
Show Convenor,	Mrs. L. H. Hardy

At this meeting fifteen active members were present.

At the first fall meeting, October 19, 1949 approximately one hundred seventy-five persons came to hear an address by Mrs. F. G. Copeland of Port Credit, Ontario. Her enthusiasm must have been contagious, as fifteen new members were added to the club.

At the December meeting in 1949, the club was able to collect and donate about sixty blooming plants for the Veterans of the Queen Mary Hospital.

The first Show was held in James A. Ovilvys beautiful Tudor Hall. Over twenty three hundred attended the two short days.

The president and members of the African Violet Club of Montreal with some of the plants which they distributed at Christmas to veterans of Queen Mary Veteran's Hospital.

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

Help! It is time again for me to compile my hints for this column. They are all too few. Have all you gals (and guys) run out of good ideas? Are we beginning to be "know it alls' or something? Anyway, some of the Pigeons that have been making the rounds contain very little constructive information on violets. Many of them have just become the means of a little cross country gossip. Does anyone want a fudge recipe? I have it. Maybe you like chocolate cake. Well -- so do I. (Look at my picture). However, -- these have no place in a Pigeon devoted to violets. Good down to earth African violet information is all too scarce. I know many of you do things every day that the other person might not have thought of. Regardless of what it is -- send it along in your Pigeon. If it appears to be logical, worthwhile and not previously mentioned, I will pass it along in my column with your name as contributor. It takes a lot of time also a strain on overworked eyes (I often must use a magnifying glass) to read some of the things that belong in personal mail. Many directors have felt Pigeons were not

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

worthwhile for the reason that many will not stick to the subject at hand -- AFRICAN VIOLETS.

Also, many directors are not instructing the last member on the list to send the Pigeons on to me. I need and appreciate all the help and hints I can get to make this column one that you will look forward to reading. Some of you who do not belong to Pigeons might have an idea up your sleeve too. How about sending it on to me. You'll find my address in the front of the magazine and with my picture on this page.

Thanks a million, I know you will not let me down.

Sincerely yours,
Helen Pochurek

Begin grooming your plants when they have but four leaves. Remove all weak and misshapen leaves at once. Your plants will be show plants when they are still quite small. All the strength will go to make good foliage. It is much better to treat each and every plant as a possible show plant, rather than wait until just before a show to start grooming.

Hulda Evans, Columbus, Ohio

When defrosting the refrigerator, save the pure distilled water from the melting ice. Warm it, of course. Leaves can be rooted or plants watered with it.

Roswell Johnson, Calif. Unit 17

Mix African violet seed with a table spoon of fine sand or vermiculite. Mix well and place in a salt shaker. Much easier to get a uniform coverage of seed than otherwise.

Your Editor

To root leaves fast: Cut leaf with ½ inch petiole. Slit petiole and ½ in. of leaf. Bury in sand or vermiculite up to top of slit. You will get more plants also.

Dalene Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.

It is often a problem to properly shade plants on glass shelves at your windows. Very often, when adjusting shade or curtain, leaves become broken. This works fine, if you can use it where you live. On the OUTSIDE of your windows, place 4 hooks, on either side of top and bottom of window.

GLADYS CANNER
Creek Rd. Rt. 1,
Herkimer, N. Y.

Homing Pigeon
Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

Attach to hooks and pull over window when shade is needed. Being on the outside, you will not touch your plants.

Anna Layson, Unit 119

To clean clay pots, I soak them in my laundry tubs in a heavy solution of Climalene or other water softener and very hot water. Let soak for a few days, drain water off. Use fresh water and Dreft suds. The heavy incrustation will come off very easily with a brush or steel wool. Rinse them in boiling water and they are ready for use.

Helen MacMahon, Macedonia, Ohio

You can grow plants from your flower stems, just like you do your leaves. Many times the plants will form before roots come.

Edith Mackey, Calif. Unit 57

Many people are very much concerned when an occasional leaf becomes brown, transparent or jelly-like. I do not think it is cause for concern. Nature provides a way for every plant, shrub and tree to lose its leaves at some time or other. How else can an African violet lose it's leaves, unless they were deliberately picked off, of course nature did not intend for a plant to hold every leaf from propagation to old age.

Your Editor

Instead of using tinfoil or wax on rim of pot, try making a collar of the wax carton of milk.

Edith Mackey, Calif. Unit 57

Did you ever have a large plant that was too awkward to handle and so refrained from washing it? If so-and its very dusty, wait for a nice, soft, warm, gentle rain and place outdoors in a protected spot. It will do it a world of good, besides making it clean and healthy looking. Place in a warm place to dry off.

Your Editor

NEW AFRICAN VIOLET BOOK

By Carolyn K. Rector

How to grow AFRICAN VIOLETS

● Tested methods in text and pictures on growing from seed; propagating from leaf cuttings and by division; formulas for potting mixtures; hybridizing; sports and mutations; defending against pests, diseases. Well illustrated. Only $1.35

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Many New Introductions Now Ready.
Leaves, Plants, Rooted cuttings and Brown's seed. Write for list today.

MRS. T. C. BEE
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QUESTION BOX

Cont. from page 45

pollinate, I simply loaded every blooming plant I had with seed pods, and not a plant died. A few stopped blooming while the seed pods were forming, but the others kept on blooming.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

Sucker Plants

To Mrs. Frank E. Whiting, Mass.

If you will prick out your "suckers" when they are tiny "mouse ears" you will keep your plants perfect without the bother of removing large "suckers," and your plants will not stop blooming. In fact they will bloom more abundantly. Look your plants over every few days and pick these tiny little side leaves out with a tooth pick.

Mrs. Raymond Delgardo, Kans.

THE SECRETARY REPORTS

The Fifth Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. was held on April 28, 1951 in the Dayton Biltmore Hotel as the final meeting of the seven held during the 1951 Convention. The President of the Society, Mrs. Arthur Radtke, presided.

The minutes of the 1950 business meeting were read and approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report was read and discussed. Due to the fact that three Treasurers served during 1950, necessitating multiple auditing, the report as submitted was complex and is, therefore, not reproduced here.

Important figures from it are:

Balance in Treasury, Jan. 1, 1950	$3,027.57
Balance in Treasury, Jan. 1, 1951	$6,395.94
Balance in Treas. Mar. 31, 1951	$10,017.30

The Resolutions Committee submitted a report thanking all persons who had participated in Convention arrangements or Convention program.

The Publications Editor, Mrs. Wright, made a brief report. The high light was that when present stocks of back copies of the Magazine become exhausted no more will be made available by re-printing.

The Scientific Committee reported on the successful completion of the first year of the Research Program at Ohio State University. Research work will be continued next year and probably expanded due to appropriation by the Board of up to two thousand dollars for research purposes.

The Registration Committee briefly reported. Three important clarifications of registration procedure, as approved by action of the Board, were included:

1. Extension of the registration plan to cover name reservation also.
2. Requiring that a brief description of each plant, mentioning points of superiority, must accompany each Registration Application.
3. Setting the minimum number of successive vegetative reproductions before Registration at two, i. e., a new plant (whether seedling, sport, mutation, or etc.) must be reproduced twice by cuttings before an Application for Registration can be received on it.

A brief summary of Board actions in the series of meeting during the Convention was read. Matters covered were:

1. Clarification of Society prizes to be awarded at local and national shows, and other awards.
2. Division of the seedling class at future National Shows into "first generation" and "proven by two reproductions" groups.
3. Acceptance of the Chicago invitation to hold the 1952 Convention there.
4. Acceptance of the Judging Report as submitted by Mrs. Carey.
5. Acceptance of the Research Committee Report and appropriation of up to two thousand dollars for research next year.
6. Clarification of registration procedures, as reported above.
7. Approval of local Club affiliation as Chapters of the National Society on payment of $2.50 fee and having 25% National membership.
8. Empowering the Editor and Advertising Manager to set advertising rates.
9. Recognition of need for a "Committee on Time and Place" to plan for future conventions.
10. Approval of design for a binder for the Magazine.
11. Deferment of any action on a Society pin until further investigation.
12. Approval of design for a Society seal.

The Nominating Committee nominated these officers for 1952:

President,	Floyd L. Johnson
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. G. Magill
Rec. Secty.,	Neil C. Miller
Corres. Secty.,	Mrs. George R. Klewe
Treasurer,	Boyce M. Edens
Membership Secty.,	Mrs. Earl Mutchner

All were elected.

At the close of the business meeting proper Mr. Edens addressed the gathering briefly on "Where Do We Go From Here?"

Recording Secretary

Neil C. Miller

HOTEL SHERMAN LOCATED IN THE HEART OF No. 1 CONVENTION CITY

Chicago may be the second largest city in the country, but it's the "Number One" convention city of the nation, and rising majestically out of the heart of the famous "loop" is the Hotel Sherman, located in the very center of a city that boasts better than a three-million population.

From the famous structure located at Clark and Randolph streets, the Hotel Sherman is the hub of hundreds of activities in the city and the central point from which to reach them.

As for restaurant atmosphere and the top choice in foods, they are offered right in the Hotel Sherman. There is the beautiful Well of the Sea, specializing in seafood and "bottom of the sea" beauty. The College Inn Porterhouse, inspired by the late Ernest Byfield, was opened in October 1950. Specializing in steaks, it is one of the most beautiful and unusual rooms in the country, following a modern West decor.

Outside of the hotel and within walking distances are the many movies and theatres offering the latest in stage plays, and a shopping district along State Street, a boulevard of the finest shops in the nation.

Also within walking distance of the hotel, one can reach beautiful Lake Michigan, dotted with yachts and beautifully sanded beaches.

Right from the Hotel Sherman, a sightseeing bus can be boarded for many tours throughout the vast city. A drive along the Lake Shore, overcast with one of the world's most beautiful skylines, is breathtaking.

The "Drive" reaches for miles along the lakefront, worming its way south into the heart of the steel industry or north into Chicago's beautiful suburbs of wide, quiet streets, into the residential district of beautiful homes in outlying Evanston, the home of Northwestern University; Winnetka, where the famous Bahai Temple is located; Lake Forest, Highland Park, Lake Bluff, Deerfield and many other suburbs.

In sports, Chicago has them all. The Windy City is the home of the Chicago Cubs of the National League and the Chicago White Sox of the American League. Every sport is offered in season, while famous Soldier's Field, also within a short distance of the Hotel Sherman, plays host annually to high school and professional football games, automobile racing, circuses, track meets and the big civic events of the city.

Other places to visit and a "must" during a trip to Chicago is the world famous Buckingham Fountain on the lakefront; the Merchandise Mart, boasting the largest office floor space of any building in the United States; Adler Planetarium, the Art Institute, Chicago Academy of Sciences, Chicago Historical Society, Chicago Natural History Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, Oriental Institute, Shedd Aquarium, Garfield Park Conservatory, Lincoln Park Conservatory, Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Zoo, and hundreds of other points of interest.

Transportation facilities in Chicago are among the best; while one of the most important things to remember for the visitor who wishes to walk, Chicago is probably the most simply laid out city of the nation, being bordered on the East by Lake Michigan.

WORK PAYS OFF . .

Cont. from page 52

plants. Oak Ridge Violet Club had a delightful miniature window filled with tiny containers of violets. New plants, old plants, pretty arrangements and all breath taking. There were 213 entries.

Awards went to Mrs. Kate Patrick for best plant in the show, to Mrs. Lloyd D. Johnson for most blue ribbons in show, to Mrs. C. W. Jenkins for best arrangement, and to Mrs. H. D. Paine for best non-member entry. Our gracious neighbors Mrs. A. B. Bowman, Mrs. D. J. Mahagen and Mrs. John Murray of Oak Ridge were the judges. Mrs. Elmer Cox and Mrs. D. S. Turner were judges for non-members.

VIOLET TREASURE HOUSE

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CRAZY QUILT — The most outstanding new introduction this season. Orchid flower "rayed" with darker lavender; but it is the foliage that is something distinctly new — two shades of green, in a woodsy-glen dappled effect, or a "crazy-quilt pattern. No other saintpaulia foliage like it. Opens up a new field for hybridizers. Plants in bud or bloom $2.00.

Geneva Rainbow, Twilight, Lady Grace, Rainbow Double Series, Sea Girl, Sailor's Delight, Double Orchid Girl, Purple Dawn, Pink Delight, Rose Marie, and many others, ranging from $1.50 to $2.50. Leaves of any 50c each. Orders for 3 plants, or $3.00 worth of leaves, postpaid; on orders less than $3.00, add 50c for postage.

Orlyt GREENHOUSE

For Less Than

$525.00

Excellent for Growing African Violets or Anything Else You Choose

Made in sections ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. Orlyt shown 10 by 11 ft. is ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Leantos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from less than $225 to $1000. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms available. Write for Booklet No. 59.

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New Doubles - Purity, Rose, Azure Beauty and Sailor's Delight. $2.50 each or 4-$9.00 Post Paid. Send Stamp for list.

FERNE V. KELLAR

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Des Moines, Iowa

PRACTICAL METHODS OF CULTIVATION AND SHIPPING

Cont. from page 27

they are reluctant to make an adjustment. They like double shipping cartons that have shavings or sawdust as an extra packing medium. Rev. Ulery told us that air freight is a good method by which to ship.

Mrs. Yoars was the third speaker, saying that they are really retailers. She suggested that everyone stick to his method of growing and his own soil formula, watering, fertilizer, etc. The Yoars Nursery selects for propagation the best, healthiest and most vigorous leaves from plants that have been watched for good habit of growth. To help get a good uniform plant, Mrs. Yoars says the plant should be turned one-quarter turn every time the plant is watered. When selecting a plant from which to propagate, be sure it is free of root diseases or insects; choose a leaf in its prime, crisp and in good growing condition, not cracked in leaf or petiole. She washes leaves in a "Dreft" bath, dipping them up and down several times, to be sure they are free of dust and insects. She propagates in soil and pots that have been sterilized, two leaves to a pot. This saves labor by one shift and is usually a quicker method. She waters very sparingly at first and until roots are formed. Heat is provided under their benches, but the plants are given very little light. Plantlets are grown this way until they are a good size, then divided and the old leaf destroyed, and the new plants are reset in good soil. This gives a good root system. The Yoars' have metal pans that hold about one hundred pots, which are sterilized with boiling water. They feel sodium selenate will control almost any insect that attacks African violets. N. N. O. R. is also recommended, although it will spot flowers when used as a spray. N. N. O. R. should be used twice a week if plants are infested. This nursery does not raise many seedlings. They ship by parcel post, and if it is necessary to file a claim, they prefer to file it.

Mr. Rockelmann, (Fischer's), has been growing African violets for sixteen years. He told us that they propagate about the same as the other commercial growers, using strong plants from which medium-sized leaves are selected. Petioles are cut three-fourths of an inch long and inserted in vermiculite in benches. No chemical is used to treat the cuttings. He prefers to pot the cuttings when just rooted, does not

split them until they are ready to come out of the small pots. He uses two potting mixtures, one for the young plants, of half muck and half vermiculite; the other for older plants is made up of muck, vermiculite and well rotted manure. He gives all the light possible without bleaching the plants, feeling that it helps the plants to bud and bloom. When necessary, he uses cloth shading. Watering is done as often as necessary, depending on the weather, by the overhead method, using warm water, and if done at the proper time, leaves do not spot.

Mr. Rockelmann says cool growing conditions produce better plants and blooms, but the growth is slower. His night temperatures vary from 60° to 65°, according to the weather and time of year. Summer is the most difficult time, when dampness causes some trouble. Day temperatures run from 70° to 75°. He uses a liquid fertilizer, according to directions given for the particular brand used. On smaller plants, a weaker solution is used. He cautions against over-fertilizing. He uses a parathion bomb to avoid insect infestation. He feels Fermate does a good job as a fumigant. He does not use sodium selenate. Steam is the method used to sterilize soil. His company sells either wholesale or retail, and prefers to ship by air express, giving extra plants to help cover the added cost.

Their seed is sown in new azalea pans in a sterilized mixture of muck and vermiculite. The mixture is moist and the seeds are sown on top of the mix and covered with a piece of glass. Watering is done by sub-irrigating -- setting pan in water until moisture shows on top of soil.
Some of the questions asked and the replies are as follows:

Q. Is there a double pink?
A. (Rev. Ulery). Not that I know of.

Q. Do hormones, etc., cause mutations?
A. Rev. Ulery says he gets some results with colchicine.

Q. Is N. N. O. R. available?
A. (Mrs. Yoars). Yes. Use it 2 teaspoons to 1 gallon and immerse the affected plants.

Q. How do commercial growers get such large flowers?
A. Because of their ideal greenhouse conditions.

Q. What is the difference between a sport, mutation and a hybrid?
A. Sports and mutants are the same and generally propagate true. A hybrid is made by crossing two varieties of saintpaulias, sowing the seed, and the plant resulting is a hybrid.

Q. Should sodium selenate or parathion be used by an inexperienced person in the home?
A. Both are dangerous, but parathion should never be used.

Q. What proportion of sodium selenate do you use?
A. (Mr. Peterson). 1/2 gram to 2 gallons of water.

Q. Will sodium selenate affect garden soil so that vegetables should not be grown in it?
A. Yes, for seven years or more.

Q. Does sodium selenate slow up plant growth?
A. Yes.

Q. How often does a mutant appear?
A. About once in 10,000 plants.

Q. Define a mutant or sport.
A. A mutant is a structural change in leaf structure, such as BLUE GIRL. A sport is generally a change in the color of the flower. There is only a slight difference.

Q. How do you water from the bottom of pans?
A. (Mrs. Yoars). Put about one-eighth inch of water in the pan and leave it until the plants absorb it.

Q. Do suckers bloom?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you use selenate more than once?
A. Use it once every two months.

Q. Do you use fermate full strength on cuttings?
A. Yes, but just a light dusting.

Q. Should compost be sterilized?
A. If it is your own, definitely.

Q. How many generations should a plant be propagated before naming?
A. Three or four.

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HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS

Cont. from page 35

where you plan to put it. If the container is of metal, paint the inside with asphalt paint.

Place a 2-inch layer of small pebbles on the bottom, and in one corner set a small empty porous pot. Place the pot on top of the layer of pebbles.

Next, place a 1-inch layer of coarse sand on top of the pebbles, flood it with water, and level it. After it is level, draw off excess water with a small rubber syringe or a grease skimmer. Draw the water out through the empty pot.

Place the potted plants (in porous pots) on top of the sand and press them very slightly into it to create contact. Build up sand around the outside of the pots, flood with water, and drain off the excess through the empty pot in the corner. This creates a seal around the pots. Vary the depth of the sand according to the dryness of your room; that is, in a dry room you would bank the sand close to the brim of the pots, in a moist climate or season, you would use less sand.

Water the pots the first time from the top to establish capillarity. Thereafter, water through the small empty pot, keeping the water level at the bottom of the pot, or, in other words, until the water starts to come through the drainage hole. Do not let it come any higher. Check and water daily.

When the soil on top of a pot becomes dry, water it from the top to establish capillarity. If a pot is taken out and replaced, both the capillary and the seal around the pot must be re-established by pouring water on the pot and the surrounding sand.

Water Condition

As explained in a previous chapter, water that is chemically pure is ideal for African violets. However, obtaining this in sufficient quantity to satisfy a thirsty collection of mature plants is sometimes a problem. Rain water and melted snow are perfect, but these sources can not be depended upon for a steady supply in most regions.

Most of us have to rely upon the water that runs out of the kitchen faucet, and in some localities it is not too friendly to African violets. If your tap water is hard, as it is in many areas in the Southwest, you

can correct it by adding an acidifier such as cider vinegar or one of the commercial preparations available at your nursery or garden store. If you use vinegar, add ½ ounce to a gallon of water; if you use an acidifier, follow the directions on the container. Water you plants with the acid solution about once every six weeks. If you have a large number of plants, you will probably find the acidifer cheaper than the vinegar.

If you do not know whether your water is hard, test it with litmus papers. It may be considered hard if it produces an alkaline reaction in the test papers.

In cities where water is chlorinated, draw it the day before and let it stand twenty-four hours before using.

Vacation Watering

If you are going to be away for a week or two, you can leave your plants at home with piece of mind if you make some simple provisions for them to "water" themselves while you are away.

Here are three tested methods to slow down the drying out:

1. Soak some bricks in a tub of water overnight, then drain out water until surface is an inch below the top surface of the bricks. Water your potted plants, and set them on top of the bricks, close together. This scheme is reported to keep the soil moist for two weeks.
2. Saturate several thicknesses of newspapers, water you potted plants, and set them on top of the papers, placing them close together. This too should keep your plants fresh for a couple of weeks.
3. Sink your pots to the rim in a packing of wet sand or sawdust. Saturate the packing and water the potted plants. This method should keep your plants fresh for three to six weeks.

It is important that the room in which the plants are left be well ventilated. Otherwise, crown rot or mildew will result from all this moisture.

Washing Violets

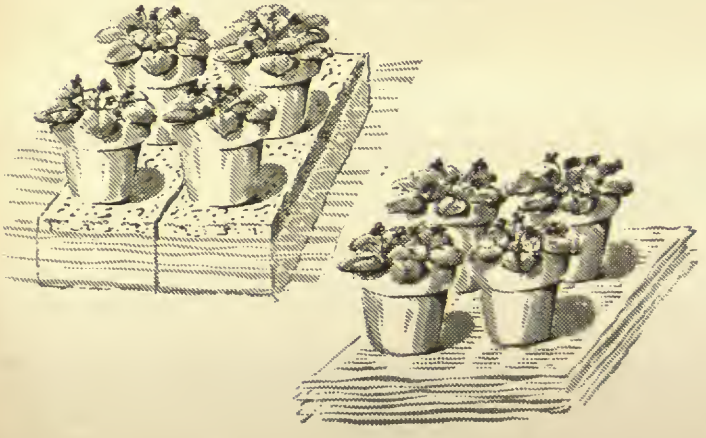
You may have been told that you must never get any water on the leaves of an African violet. Don't believe it. Washing them when they get dusty is just as good for them as it is for you. In their native habitat the rainfall is above 70 inches a year.

This is what you should remember about washing them: always use warm water and do not stand them in a draft or let the sun shine on the leaves while wet. If you chance to sprinkle them with cold water, or water that is even slightly cooler than room temperature, their leaves will develop ring spots.

The plants should be rinsed until the water washes all the dust off the leaves. The simplest way to wash a few plants is to hold them one at a time under the warm water faucet, tipping them sideways so the water strikes the center of the plants and runs outward, and turning them so all the leaves will be washed. Use a fairly gentle stream and take care that the water does not get too warm. Afterwards, place them in a warm dry spot, away from sun and drafts, until the leaves dry out.

A spray attachment, such as the kind you can attach to the mixing faucet on your kitchen sink, is a handy device for washing violets.

Once every two weeks, spray with an insecticide. See the chapter on pests and diseases for recommended sprays.



Soaked bricks or newspapers will hold water, keep plants moist during vacation.

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THE SHOW

Cont. from page 23

Mrs. Ruth Yoars also exhibited Bi-Color. Vera Mae has large scalloped leaves though not girl type. The flower is orchid. Periwinkle has dark green foliage with very red reverse or leaf and the flower is light blue. White Lady had good foliage with broad leaf and heavier than most white ladies we have seen (speaking of African violets of course). Red Beauty had medium dark green leaves and dark veins. The flower is a very nice bright wine red. Lavender Pink has large heavy quilted foliage with true light lavender flowers. R-10 has girl foliage and red flowers.

We step to the next exhibit which is Fischers of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Here we found Paul Rockelman in charge. The lovely mature plants of Fringettes were displayed again. They come in Dark Blue, Light Blue (to me it is even brighter than Norseman) Red Lavender, Blue Lavender, Mauvette and Pure White. The flowers are curly at the edge and the foliage is fringed. My Lady Marion has slightly girl foliage and the flower is medium blue. Blue Rosette is very double and large though not as large as Apollo. The flowers are medium blue. Light Lavender Rosette was a lavender double and except for color of flowers a twin to Blue Rosette. They both had many flowers. Mrs. Alma Wright, named for the editor of our magazine, was a beautiful double white. We agree it had to be something special to carry that name. The foliage is good and heavy with the edge of the leaves deeply serrated. It blooms in nice clusters. This one was for the future too as was another attractive single white. Brussels Sprouts is certainly unusual. It seemed it just couldn't make up its mind which part was to be flower and which foliage. The large double flower was both dark blue and green. I'm sorry not to remember the foliage but I couldn't get past those flowers. Needless to say, it attracted much attention! Tear Drop is that miniature double with the little light blue roses I loved so last year. The plant does stay small and now has been released. Petite is another small semi-double with red reverse to the leaves. The flowers are medium blue.

On the other side of the room was an Educational Exhibit, an important part of any flower show. Small plants grown from seeds were shown, also leaf propagation. Other plants of the same family as our

saintpaulia (still African violets to most of us) were on exhibit. These included Gloxinias, Isolomas, Episcias and Calumnea. Both Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book, "The African Violet," and Mary Margaret Odom's book "Handbook for Growing African Violets" were on the education table as were various plant foods. In fact just about everything you need to grow African violets was accounted for there.

In the next room Naglers of Marietta, Georgia had a display of African violets with a large arrangement of plants as a point of interest. Here we again saw Fantasy so hard to describe because the colors are rarely the same on any two petals. The flowers may be described as lavender with purple markings or visa-versa. The foliage is medium green. Bronze Girl had a purple flower though we have only seen it with red flowers. The girl type foliage is dark red on the reverse side, giving the leaves a bronze effect. Variegated Red Girl had medium and light green variegated foliage. Marmorata Supreme had dark green leaves, red reverse and the flower was cupped. Maronetta has girl type foliage with light blue flower, known to many of us as one of the many different Sailor Girls, and du Pont No. 5 is one of the lovely du Ponts with very light blue flowers. Admiration is a large white very much like White Amazon. Miniature Sapphire is the same, rather lighter than medium blue with a slightly darker center as Sapphire but this time in a miniature form. Cinderella has heavy quilted foliage with flowers perhaps more pink than orchid.

Mrs. Geo. Gross of Clayton, Ohio exhibited seven different plants or varieties of Episcias. With the red and orange flowers we still have hope of those flowers on a saintpaulia.

Martha Mears had Streptocarpus in pink, blue and white. These Martha grew from seeds but does not have any Streptocarpus for sale!! (This requested to save time on correspondence and disappointment.) The Isolomas and Trichosporum were very lovely. Perhaps the owner will write an article on them as we are all interested. All these plants are of the Gesneriaceae family and they are a challenge as well as fun to grow with African violets.

Most assuredly I have missed some very good plants in the show for which I apologize. Notes were taken when time permitted and sometimes looking over anothers shoulder; by daylight and artificial light but under any circumstances they were all well worth seeing.

We are indebted to those who brought plants that we may enjoy them, to those who brought better known varieties that we might see them correctly labelled, as well as the new introductions and those for the future. Our beloved Nelle Berst, Convention Chairman and her committee worked very hard that we may enjoy the Convention and we vote them an "A plus" for their effort and the result. It is our sincere hope you join us at the 1952 Convention in Chicago, Illinois next spring.

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INVISIBLE ENEMIES

Cont. from page 32

associated in the later stages, are initiated by nematodes.

Of course, not all fungi and bacteria are harmful. Except for such relatively giant fungi as the mushrooms, puffballs and a few others, they like the bacteria are microscopic organisms. They exist in multitudinous variety and number as part of the normal organic matter of the soil. They break down the remains of dead plants and animals whose substance then becomes usable again to nourish living ones. They contribute materially to soil fertility. Many of the fungi have, however, abandoned this useful role in nature and have become parasitic on other organisms - plants, animals, and even man. Some are exclusively parasitic and can not exist except on a living host; others practice the free enterprise system at times, but go on a dole and live on more independent organisms whenever environmental conditions are favorable for this microbiological piracy. They are opportunists.

Of the fungi that have been recorded on African violets - and they are few indeed, considering the voluminous cultivation of this plant - only the surface mildew fungus, which causes white, powdery patches on the leaves, and sometimes the flowers, especially of double varieties, belongs to the group of obligate parasites. The others exist part of the time on dead plant remains, but on occasion invade living tissues too, either consuming them chemically or poisoning them so that part or all of the plant dies. Among the fungi that I have found actually occurring on sickly African violets, the following, listed by name, have been most frequent: Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, Phytophthora (unfortunately most fungi have no common English names, hence these Latin terms must be used to identify them). Several different species of Fusarium and at least three kinds of Phytophthora have been found on decaying violet roots. Furthermore, representative strains of these fungi have proved capable, when a pure culture was placed in contact with a healthy violet crown, of causing a severe form of crown rot. One Fusarium and one strain of Rhizoctonia solani were particularly damaging, rotting all the leaf stalks off at the base. Besides these, a species of Verticillium, which causes a wilt disease of many kinds of garden plants, but which I have not yet found on a naturally diseased African violet, is able to cause crown rot

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when it is artificially inoculated. And at least one of the many kinds of Pythium - fungi that cause damping-off and root-rot of many kinds of plants - can attack and destroy violet seedlings and "babies".

Where do these predators come from? They are likely to be present in any soil that has been used for cultivating plants, either in greenhouses or out of doors. The longer the soil has been used for plant culture, the more likely it is to harbor some of these disease-producing fungi. Even composted sod - a favorite source of good soil for greenhouse plant culture - is not assuredly free of dangerous organisms, for one of the most damaging of turf diseases, brown patch, is caused by Rhizoctonia which, as mentioned above, can also cause crown rot of violets. Prolonged composting is, however, a means of getting rid of many disease organisms for, in the absence of their preferred hosts and in competition with the normal soil organisms, the parasitic species tend to die out. The only real insurance against trouble from soil-borne parasites is soil disinfection, or as it is sometimes called, soil sterilization. Actually we neither try nor wish to sterilize the soil, for this would impair its fertility; we only want to get rid of the disease-producers.

It so happens that none of the chemical treatments that have come into use recently for freeing soil of animal pests, such as sodium selenate for mites, and methyl bromide, ethylene dibromide, D-D, and perhaps Parathion, for nematodes, are efficient fungicides in addition. Heating the soil to a temperature that will kill both animal and fungus pests is a practicable general remedy, however. The simplest way to accomplish this is to heat the soil in a pressure cooker, or on a rack suspended above boiling water in a covered vessel, such as a wash boiler or large kettle. The soil can be treated right in the pots (except plastic pots)! where it is to be used, or in cans, baskets, or cloth bags - anything that will keep the soil in and let the heat through. Although it has generally been stated that the soil must be heated to 180° F. for a full hour in order to disinfect it, actually there is little reason to exceed 140° for 30 minutes, since this will destroy all nematodes and most of the parasitic fungi that are likely to be encountered. Prolonged and excessive heating is detrimental to the physical structure of the soil, and also produces chemical changes that make the soil toxic unless it is well aerated and leached several times with water. In general, exposing 2 to 3-inch pots for 20 minutes, 4-inch pots for 30 minutes, and 5 to 6-inch pots about

1 hour, over boiling water in a covered vessel is ample "sterilization". By the use of a pressure cooker set at 10 pounds, these periods can be halved. This treatment is good insurance against any of the invisible soilborne enemies that attack the saintpaulia.

Fastidious cultivators may, however, object to the bother and in particular the odor of heating soil. For them, we suggest the use of chemical fumigants, such as methyl bromide and ethylene dibromide. The use of the former in sealed ampules, originally prepared for delousing soldiers' apparel and blankets but now marketed commercially, is described by Dr. Smith in the companion article on insect pests. Ethylene dibromide, which has heretofore been available only as a liquid fumigant, is now sold in the form of gelatin capsules containing just enough chemical to treat approximately ½ cubic foot or about 30 pounds of soil. These need only to be inserted into the soil mass after proper moistening, which is then kept in a covered vessel for about 2 weeks, to free it of nematodes and insects.

To be sure, this may not affect parasitic fungi appreciably, but if these hidden enemies are really dependent upon nematodes to give them their destructive start, the elimination of the nematodes should pretty well check the fungi. At any rate it will be an interesting experiment to make.

We have not discoursed on mistakes of culture, such as overwatering, defective soil drainage, and chilling, as predisposing factors in root and crown rot. Such factors may indeed be the starting point of this trouble, but are not invariably so. Crown rot may sometimes, and with great suddenness, attack your most carefully nurtured plant. It is wise to know your enemies, especially the invisible ones, and destroy them before they ever get a good start.

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ACTIVITIES OF MONTREAL CLUB

Cont. from page 55

The club was honoured by the presence of Her Excellency Lady Alexander, wife of Canada's Governor General, who was presented with a plant, Purple Prince, as a memento, grown by the vice-president.

At the beginning of this year membership totaled over two hundred.

The 1950-1951 season, under the presidency of Mrs. W. L. Hardy has been one of continued growth and interest. Among the programmes at the regular meetings were practical demonstrations on the growth and culture of saintpaulia, a leaf growing contest for beginners, an illustrated lecture by Henry Ten Hagen and the distribution of many varied pamphlets pertaining to African violets.

Six members attended the Fifth Annual African Violet Society Convention in Dayton. The two chief activities have been the Christmas distribution of African violets to the Veterans Hospitals and the annual Spring Exhibition. Two hundred and fifty gaily wrapped pots of plants in full bloom were delivered by members to the Queen Mary Veterans Hospital in Montreal and an additional two hundred and fifty to the St. Anne's Military Hospital. It was heart warming to see the eagerness and interest of the patients in selecting plants for themselves and their friends.

Nearly two thousand people visited our second Annual Show held on May 17, and 18, 1951 which opened with a preview and tea attended by growers, representatives of garden clubs, civic officials and members of the press. Five non-competitive displays were shown, which were an education in the new and different varieties, which have resulted from cross pollination. The first display, entered by Mrs. Hardy featured over sixty varieties. Effectively arranged behind a low picket fence, it attracted much attention. Mrs. L. H. Davies presented a beautiful corner exhibit with Blue Warrior, Double Sea Girl and a Double Mauve among her plants.

Mrs. Buck, The Botanical Gardens, and Richard Scott featured colorful displays of plants liberally covered with bloom. In the competitive class, the "Bill Pascoe Cup" for the best plant in the show was won by Mrs. H. H. Pick, who at eighty years of age is the oldest member of the club. Her "Gorgeous Bi-Color" was an outstanding specimen. The prize for the highest aggregate was won by Mrs. G. H. Robinson. It was remarkable to note the improvement in only one year in the quality, and form of the plants exhibited by all members. The club is keeping a scrapbook which has proved of great interest to both members and visitors.

After a most successful season, which closed with a membership of over two hundred and fifty, we believe ourselves to be one of the largest African Violet Clubs.

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SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

Cont. from page 31

A study of the basic kinds of African violets, the species, is desirable. The species are usually found growing in isolated areas. They do not all grow under the same conditions and probably do not require the same amounts of light, water and nutrients necessary for their best growth, bud formation and development.

When Adalbert E. W. R. LeTanneur von Saintpaul-Illaire was walking through the coastal woods near Tanga in 1892, he probably did not realize the great interest his discovery of the African violet was about to create. Although history does not record that his wife Marguerite accompanied him at the time of his find, it seems to indicate that this is the case. They must have discovered this lovely plant while strolling together in the beautiful coastal forest.

May we have the house lights out please . . .

And now the first slide please . . .

Adalbert sent plants to his father in the summer of 1892. This is copy of a photograph of his father. Ulrich M. LeTanneur von Saintpaul-Illaire. You will note that his last name is hyphenated. This is because it was customary fo. Germans of noble birth to attach their wife's name to theirs if their wife was also of noble birth. After Ulrich received plants form his son Adalbert, he took them to Herman Wendland, a German botanist. Mr. Wendland apparently noticed that they had not previously been described in botanical literature and so he described the plants and named the genus Saintpaulia in honor of the family of Ulrich L. T. von Saintpaul-Illaire. A part of his German description translated tells you what he thought of the Usambara violet, a name which he suggested. Quote: "Because of its enhancing beauty I would call this plant one of the daintiest hot-house plants which have been introduced in the last years".

Let us pause to take a look at another slide.

The next slide please . . .

Here we have a photograph of a coastal mist forest similar to the region in which **Saintpaulia ionantha** was discovered.

The next slide please . . .

This is a photo of **Saintpaulia ionantha** probably first gathered at Amboni near Tanga and about 5 degrees west and five

miles inland. Here on large rocks of crystalline-limestone the plants may be found growing today on small ledges and crevices where humus has collected. Only towards evening does the sun for a very short time, strike the rocks as they face north. The area is nearly at sea level

The next slide please . . .

Here you'll see a seedling of **Saintpaulia ionantha** showing its red or nearly red foliage on the under surface of the leaves thus proving that some of the old colored pictures of the African violet were not at all unrealistic as far as their color illustrations are concerned.

The next slide please . . .

In order to locate the African violet region we will take an imaginary airplane trip from Dayton, approximately here on the map, to East Africa . . . .

The next slide please . . .

This is a map of the African Continent. Please note the location of East Africa. The African violets were originally restricted to this area and are not native of South Africa.

The next slide please . . .

Now this is an East African section of the map you have just looked at.

The next slide please . . .

This map of Tanganyika shows the various kinds of vegetation. It is interesting to note that much of this part of Africa is not jungle. A large part of it is grass lands with an occasional tree found growing among the grass. We find remnants of once great forests. Large areas have been burned over for cultivation both by the natives and the European colonizers. There are at least two groups of mountains in which the African violets are found. The Usambara (oosambara) and the Uluguru Mts. (ooloogooroo). Here are the Usambara and here, the Uluguru.

The next slide please . . .

Here is a close up of the Usambara mountains I have just showed you. The brown areas are the forest regions.

The next slide please . . .

Now you are looking at a picture of a mist forest remnant of the Usambara Mts. Notice the type of rock found in association with the African violets (Gneiss).

The next slide please . . .

This shows a diagrammatic section of the Usambara mountains with the amounts of rainfall they receive and gives an indication of the types of forest.

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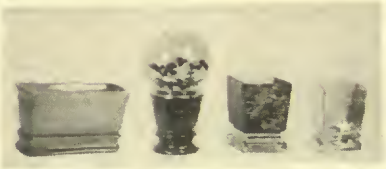

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The next slide please . . .

This is the Amani section of Tanganyika and it is from this area that the species **Saintpaulia amaniensis** is to be found.

The next slide please . . .

Here is an old photo showing a clearing in an evergreen rain forest near Amani. Notice the two German explorers and natives possibly on a plant collecting expedition.

The next slide please . . .

Now this is a photo of **Saintpaulia magungensis**, also found in the Amani area.

The next slide please . . .

Here you see what it looks like in color. It has a distinct branching stem which may be trained to grow upward supported by a stake or as you see it here, hanging over the side of the pot. This plant is four years old.

The next slide please . . .

Saintpaulia amaniensis is yet another species having a distinct stem. Please notice that the leaves are quite different from **S. magungensis.**

The next slide please . . . .

This is **Saintpaulia tongwensis** which was found about 35 miles S.W. of Tanga and 23 miles inland at 1700 feet. It used to grow on the crown of a small mountain until just recently when an archeologist cut all of the trees on the crown of the mountain Tongwe, so he could photograph the ruins of an old fort. By doing so he let the intense light on the African violets and killed them. Tongwensis grew among cycads and other dwarfish evergreens. (Conditions drier than any other known species).

The next slide please . . .

Here is a color slide of **Saintpaulia tongwensis**, the light green band is a characteristic of this species. It has a tendency to grow as a single crown.

The next slide please . . .

This is a location in the forests showing where **Saintpaulia grotei** thrives. It is very damp in this forest. S. **grotei** is found growing near Amani at about 3,000 feet. It flourishes near running water in dense shade.

The next slide please . . .

This is a plant of **Saintpaulia grotei.** It illustrated its distinct stems and shows how it may be grown when staked . . .

The next slide please . . .

This is a copy of a photograph showing S. **grotei's** manner of growth when allowed to hang over the sides of its container.

Te next slide please . . .

Here is **Saintpaulia grotei** in color. A few of the branches have been staked. Some of the leaves have been removed so you can better see its stem.

The next slide please . . .

This is **Saintpaulia orbicularis.** It is one of the most productive of all the species of African violets as far as flowers are concerned. It will be described in a future issue of the African violet magazine.

The next slide please . . .

Saintpaulia diplotricha grows at about 3,000 ft. on sacred Mt. Mlinga, an eastern outlier of the East Usambaras. We are now going to speed our imaginary plane to the south west to the Uluguru Mountains.

The next slide please . . .

This is a localized map of the Uluguru mountain area. At the south end of this mountain range in forests similar to those shown in the next slide two more of the species of African violets were discovered.

The next slide please . . .

Here is the edge of the forest area. Notice the tall grass.

The next slide please . . .

Here is the other species **Saintpaulia goetzeana.** Like S. **pusilla** it has not yet been introduced. It has small flowers nearly white and has dark green leaves. It grows on perpendicular rock faces in heavy shade in rain forest.

You have now seen either sketches or photographs of all of the described species of African violets so let us go back to the elder Mr. Saintpaul-Illaire for the moment. Mr. Ulrich Saintpaul-Illaire sold or gave plants of Saintpaulia ionantha to Mr. Fredrich Benary of the seed firm of Ernest Benary, Erfurt, Germany.

The next slide please . . .

This is a picture of Mr. Fredrich Benary and it is to him that we owe the distribution of the first African violet plants into Europe and America. He was the first hybridizer and had varieties which largely breed true from seed. The firm still offers some of these varieties today, although they may be difficult to obtain because the seed company is now in the Russian occupied area of Germany. He is largely responsible for the beginning of its popularity in America.

The next slide please . . . .

These are varieties of **S. ionantha.** The photo was taken from an early horticultural magazine. Note the color range in the African violets in 1903, the date of this publication.

The next slide please . . . .

This slide illustrates some of the present leaves forms and color of some of our present day varieties.

The next slide please . . . .

This shows some of our present-day range of colors in the varieties. Though cross pollination of the varieties with the newly introduced species it is possible to increase the leaf variation and habit of growth of future varieties to produce some really different varieties of Saintpaulia. Thank you.

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Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
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SANTA MONICA BAY SOCIETY

On April 10, 1951 the Santa Monica Bay Society of the African Violet Society had its installation of new officers serving for the ensuing year. Refreshments were served, consisting of a lovely decorated cake and punch. The club now has a membership of over fifty. Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor for this district officiated at the installation of the new officers.

Elected to office were:

President,	Mrs. William Haskell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. R. Hall
Secretary,	Mrs. Henry Shilling
Treasurer,	Mrs. Chas. Croninger

LEWISTOWN PENNSYLVANIA

The Lewistown African Violet Society was organized January 31, 1949 and now has a membership of nine, all of whom are members of the National Society. Meetings are held in the homes of the members on the second Monday of the month.

Officers for the year 1951 are:

President,	Mrs. Samuel Mitchell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Raymond Hickman
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Clarence Bell

COLORADO SOCIETIES

Officers for the African Violet Society of Denver, Chapter 1 of Area 8 are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Theo M. Greer
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Maurice Bush
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. F. E. Jenkins

Officers for the African Violet Society of Denver, Amethyst Chapter are:

President,	Mrs. George Meyers
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Hill

The African Violet Study Group of Windsor, Colorado has recently been formed with Mrs. R. A. Saunders as the leader.

SENECA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY

The Seneca African Violet Society of Seneca, Kansas was organized March 20, 1951 with a membership of fifteen. Meetings are to be held at the City Rest Room on the third Tuesday of each month with the business meeting called for 8:00 p. m. Prior to this at 7:00 p. m. we will have a tour of one or more homes to view African violets.

Officers elected for this year are:

President,	Mrs. Joe Olberding
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. August Ronnebaum
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Frank Painter
Reporter,	Mrs. Minnie Jermane
Corres. Secy.	Mrs. John A. Lecick

WINDSOR, ONTARIO SOCIETY

A group of seven persons met at the home of Mrs. D. Marks, on May 10, 1951 for the purpose of organizing an African Violet Society in Windsor, Mr. Frank Hull acted as chairman of the meeting and Miss Erma Peppler was appointed secretary.

Officers elected for a period of six months are:

President,	Frank Hull
Vice-Pres.,	W. H. Hinton
Secretary,	Miss Erma Peppler
Treasurer,	Mrs. D. Marks
Program,	Mrs. W. W. Woodruff
Refreshments,	Mrs. Hinton and Mrs. Hull

Qualifications for membership were discussed and By-Laws were adopted.

Membership will be for amateur growers and limited to fifteen. Monthly meetings will be held on the first Monday evening at 8 p. m.

SAN PEDRO CALIFORNIA

On Tuesday night, April 17, 1951, the new San Pedro Society was installed by Mrs. Clarissa Harris of Los Angeles. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Inga Hedlund.

Officers elected are:

President,	Mrs. Alice Gruendler
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Inga Hedlund
Secretary,	Mrs. Inez Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Grace Wilson
Plant Chairman,	Mrs. Guldbeck

Mrs. Harris then gave an interesting talk on the culture of African violets. Membership in this club now numbers twenty-six.

ST. JOSEPH MISSOURI

The Missouri Valley African Violet Society of St. Joseph, Missouri held its first show in the Red Feather Room of the Y. W. C. A. There were over a thousand registered with seven states represented. The show was attractively staged on long tables covered in pale green and arranged along the walls.

An outstanding feature in the center of the room was the nursery arranged by Milton Bumbacher. The foundation of the arrangement was in pale green with four colorful storks with a baby violet in their bill. The center of the arrangement consisted of wild fern with a cradle inserted, holding an Ionantha. Around the arrangement were leaves in all stages of growth and all manner of growing media. There were 14 classes including children's arrangements, novelties and displays.

Mrs. Robt. Montgomery and Mrs. Milton Cockran both of Kansas City, Missouri served as judges. Mrs. Ferd Flach served as show chairman.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT CLUB

Over four hundred persons visited the first exhibit of African violets held on May 8, 1951 at Webster Hall in West Hartford by the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Club. Mrs. T. Y. Ramsdell and Mrs. Charles Dow were co-chairman of the exhibit with the able assistance of the hospitality committee.

It is believed that this is the first show to be held by an organized group in New England. It was free to the public and some idea of the interest may be gained by the fact that two hundred popular votes were cast for the most outstanding plant which was a Mentor Boy exhibited by Mrs. A. D. Spring.

The club librarian, Mrs. Donald Watson, conducted a reference table with pamphlets, National Society Magazines and the latest horticultural information on saintpaulias. Mrs. Ralph Filson and Mrs. Stanley Traskers were busy from 2 p. m. until 5 p. m. demonstrating potting procedures and answering the questions of the many interested persons who stood in line.

It was gratifying to all members of the club to know that so many gained enjoyment and knowledge from this exhibit. Small plants and leaves were sold which netted the club more than enough to defray expenses.

BEAN CREEK VALLEY EXHIBIT

The Bean Creek Valley African Violet Club held its first show at the Methodist Church in Hudson, Michigan on May 8, 1951 with two hundred and fifty visitors from California, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, New York and Michigan.

Members and friends exhibited three hundred and fifty choice plants. Displays of special interest were Mrs. Robert Cunningham's seedling exhibit showing the parent plants and a dozen of their seedling offspring; Mrs. Helen McGill's natural setting group which featured several beautiful variegated plants and S. grotei, as well as others; and Mrs. Carl Houseman's Violet Nursery. All these exhibits were awarded first prizes.

Mrs. Eugene Ruder's Neptune received a Sweepstakes award as the best single crown plant in the show and Mrs. Lelsie Britten was awarded a Sweepstakes as winner of the most blue ribbons. Mrs. Dale Ferrall of Battle Creek, Michigan was judge of the exhibit.

Mrs. K. D. Friess of Hudson, Michigan Table" attracted a constant crowd of visitors. The club history and scrap books were on display as well as African violet books and copies of the African Violet Magazine. Leaves were passed out to those interested in growing their own plants.

The show was preceeded by a club luncheon attended by nearly seventy members and friends.

Mrs. K. D. Friess of Hudson Michigan acted as general show chairman.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. Robert Cunningham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Eugene Ruder
Secretary,	Mrs. Helen McGill
Treasurer,	Mrs. Wilber Riley
Historian,	Mrs. Winifred Clement

TRENTON NEW JERSEY SHOW

On October 4 and 5, 1951 the Trenton African Violet Club will display at least a thousand African violets at the War Memorial Building in Trenton New Jersey.

Classes are open for Violet Clubs, also for non-members. Anyone interested in showing violets in the show, please contact Edgar Harriss, State Highway 25, Burlington, New Jersey.

Admission is free.

AURORA SOCIETY SHOW

The Admiral Branch of the Aurora, Illinois, African Violet Society held its first show on April 21, 1951 at the Y. W. C. A. The theme chosen was "African Violet Fairyland" which expressed well the idea of the show planners as every type, shade and size of these popular plants were exhibited. An estimated two thousand persons were present for the afternoon and evening showing.

The one hundred ninety-seven entries included two hundred individual plants consisting of sixty-five varieties and were judged by Mrs. Dale Ferral, Battle Creek, Michigan, Mrs. Elof Carlson, Rockford, and Mrs. Wm. Fowkes, Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Alfred Weingartner was general chairman.

Mayor Lloyd E. Markel was present to bestow the award for the most blue ribbons, which was won by Mrs. E. G. Magill, founder of the Admiral branch who won nine blue ribbons.

The Schaefer Greenhouse displayed a collection of African violets that filled the rostrum of the auditorium. The booth on violet culture and growth was a center of interest, numbering many men among its visitors.

Members of the African Violet Society, Admiral Branch, presented a program at Sunnymere Friday Afternoon, March 16, and gave each resident a violet plant with instructions for its care. Mrs. E. G. Magill gave the address and led the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Mableruth Hunt sang several appropriate numbers, accompanied by Mrs. Glenn Davidson at the piano. Mrs. Samuel Rowe gave a reading and Mrs. Robert Spruce read a poem. Refreshments were served by the members of the Society. Hostesses were Mrs. Robert Brown, Mrs. Harry Weller, and Mrs. Ralph Lyson. Mrs. Spence was in charge of the program.

Preceding the visit to Sunnymere, the club met at the Magill home for the usual business meeting.

CLEVELAND SOCIETY SHOW

The Metropolitan Cleveland African Violet Society held its first show at the Cleveland Garden Center on April 14 and 15, 1951. The Garden Center in its picturesque setting, facing the small lake with the Art Museum to the north and the well landscaped grounds is an ideal location for any flower show.

There were about one hundred and seventy-five entries, including arrangements. Mr. Arnold Davis, director of the Garden Center contributed greatly to the success of the show, of which the members are justly proud. Mrs. Max Price acted as show chairman.

Specimen plants were exhibited on tiered tables which lined most of the auditorium In the foyer, the arrangements and large multiple crowned plants greeted visitors as they entered the building.

The Queen of the Show Award, a gold cup went to Mrs. H. K. Anderson for her du Pont No. 4. A years membership in the National Society was given to Mrs. Frank Pochurek as the Sweepstakes Award. Judges were Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. John Landaker of Cincinnati, and Mrs. E. Pearle Turner of Akron.

There were several small commercial-hobbiest dealers who are members of the group but there was only one commercial exhibit.

Those assisting Mrs. Price were Mesdames Pochurek, McMahon, McKay, Hodan, Held, Placak, Kopac, Rekstis, Hexter, Anderson, Strasbourger, Sniff, Scheu, Hrabah, Miller, Braebender, Conant and Sinnott.

Attendance for the two days was over six thousand five hundred.

BATTLE CREEK EXHIBIT

The sweepstakes prizes at the African Violet Show held on June 7, 1951 at the Postum Clubhouse were won by Mrs. Dale Ferrall, show chairman whose entries took four blue ribbons, one red ribbon and one white, representing first, second and third places. The show was dedicated to the promotion and improvement of the species and was sponsored by the two local groups, the Battle Creek African Violet Society and the Lady Geneva Society.

The show attracted a crowd of around four hundred spectators. Most of the twenty classes into which entries were divided were well represented. Runner-up in the sweepstakes class was Mrs. Vernon Waite, vice-president of the Battle Creek Society, who came in second with one blue ribbon, three reds and three whites.

The most novel entries were in the "special day" class where arrangements suitable for Christmas, Independence Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day were among the themes. Particular interest was attracted by Mrs. Ferrall's Independence Day centerpiece composed of a large red firecracker, fuse and all, laid on its side, scooped out and planted with red, white and blue African violets.

WEBSTER GROVES SOCIETY

On January 18, 1951 the Charter Chapter of St. Louis and St. Louis County celebrated its second birthday at the home of Mrs. Frank Shadday, Webster Groves. A beautifully decorated cake was served with refreshments. One of the guests was a member of the Viking African Violet Club.

Our two years have been most successful in contributing toward our knowledge of African Violets as well as stimulating interest in forming new groups throughout the area. We have set a goal of at least one group a year to be formed from the Charter Chapter and to date the Viking group has already celebrated it's first birthday, and one or more groups are now in the organization stage, as yet unnamed.

At the March 15, 1951 meeting, held at the home of Mrs. W. R. Stevens the newly elected officers for 1951 were installed as follows:

Chairman,	Mrs. W. Moch
Vice-Chm.,	Mrs. C. W. Chambers
Publicity Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. Stevens
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. Paulus
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. M. A. Renick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. L. E. Koenig

As a gesture of appreciation to the outgoing officers a violet was given each of them by the officer replacing them.

Following the business meeting the program consisted of a talk given by Mrs. W. Moch entitled "H Bomb."

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

A group of violet enthusiasts met on February 11, 1951 to organize the African Violet Society of Hastings. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Harry Mills
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Garth Osterhout
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. W. A. Cole
Reporter,	Mrs. J. R. Jones

This new club has fifteen members.

PHILADELPHIA CLUB PICNIC

Mrs. Anna Steele was hostess to the African Violet Society of Philadelphia at a picnic meeting at her home on Bristol Road, Langhorne, Pennsylvania on June 24th.

Following the delicious luncheon the members much enjoyed the beautiful display of Mrs. Steeles saintpaulias which were a mass of bloom.

LOCKPORT ILLINOIS

A group of nine violet enthusiasts met at the home of Mrs. Earl Burnsworth, May 22, 1951 to organize the Lockport African Violet Society.

Mrs. Burnsworth presided as chairman of the meeting and the following officers were appointed for the first six months:

President,	Mrs. Earl Burnsworth
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Frank Loucks
Secretary,	Mrs. Wm. Ziesman
Treasurer,	Mrs. Sadie Kreiger
Publicity,	Mrs. John Salley

This new clubs membership is limited to twenty five, and it meets the 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month in the members homes. An educational program is being planned.

An annual Christmas party, and picnic as well as a tea and exhibition in the spring is on the clubs agenda.

INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA CLUB

The Indianapolis African Violet Club was organized on Washington's Birthday February 22, 1951. Meetings for the twenty-two members are held the second Friday of each month. Programs for the coming year will include a showing in June 1952 of plants grown from leaves obtained at a leaf exchange at the June meeting this year. A show was to be staged in May.

Officers elected for a one year period are:

President,	Mrs. Ernest Kitch
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Hermann Fitterer
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Gaylord Snyder
Treasurer,	Mrs. A. N. Robinson
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Guy Lennington

In Memoriam

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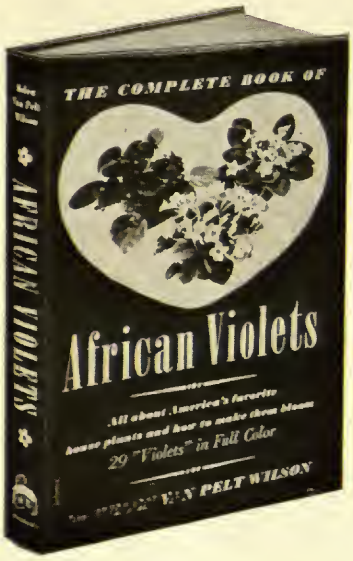

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Saintpaulia Language Index

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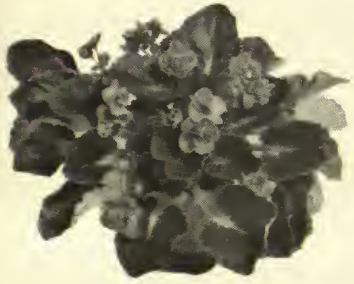

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African Violet Magazine

DECEMBER 1951 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 2

JUL 18

LACY GIRL $3.25 (see picture above)

This is the first of a new series of fancy varieties, and is sure to win prizes for you in any show. Darkest blue-violet giant-sized flowers with heavily fringed and fuzzy rick-rack type margins on the petal edges. Never before has any variety been the BEST SELLER in my catalog during the same season it was introduced -- really a most unusual record, but then, it's a most unusual variety!

HERE'S THE NEWEST IN SAINTPAULIAS . . .

One of the greatest thrills of collecting African Violets comes from the addition of an exceptionally choice variety.
We are very proud to offer these outstanding Introductions by Ulery's of Ohio . . . the result of years of cross hybridization! My sister and I selected these exquisite creations as the BEST of many new ones displayed by Ulery's at the African Violet Convention held in Dayton in 1951. They're magnificent! Buy as many as you can afford!

PAINTED GIRL $2.75

White flower with a heavy band of bright orchid at the petal edges, sometimes extending to the center of the flower. Profuse bloomer. A lively pattern and sure to attract excited comments from your neighbors.

VELVET GIRL $3.00

Captivating pansy-like flowers. Lower petals mostly rich orchid in tone with a permanent red-garnet edging at the outside tips. Two upper petals solid velvety dark red-garnet which doesn't fade! Something new in the bi-color class.

ULERY'S BLUE WONDER $3.00

A really striking marbleized flower in white and brilliant marine blue, more intense in the center. Grow it in your sunniest window for sharpest coloration and design. Great opportunities to win the title of HEAVIEST BLOOMER with this one. Big flowers. Light green foliage, white stems, clean cut finish.

BLUE HEIRESS $3.00

Brilliant blue DuPont seedling with heavily scalloped "girl-type" foliage and superior habits. Giant sized flowers of "supreme" substance and heavy stalks. Profuse bloomer with lots of color. Grows precisely, to great size. Color between Sailor Girl and Neptune.

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Extra large flowers of beautiful coloring which open up widely and every blossom is sure to mature. Read more about this new double-flowering strain of Ulery's in my Fall catalog. Pictured too! Our packing methods keep the plant roots moist, keeps the flowers in good condition so you won't be disappointed. BUT . . . it gets cold here in Michigan quicker in the winter time, better hustle in your catalog inquiry or maybe your order???

A SAD EXPERIENCE

Remember last December? When the railroad strike tied up all parcel post? We mailed 800 plants just the day before, every one froze too. Our customers were glad they ordered from us, because WE STOOD THE WHOLE LOSS OURSELVES . . . sent them brand new fresh plants first thing this Spring at no cost. Makes for satisfied repeat customers, which are the basis of our business.

We positively mean our guarantee of "YOU BE THE JUDGE, we're anxious to please!" This year on late orders, shall I hold your order till Spring or return your money? We do not ship during winter months. For a lovelier window garden this fall, write me today!

MONEY SAVING PRICE REDUCTIONS EFFECTIVE NOW

It looked as tho we might have too many Spring 1951 catalogs so we sent them to A. V. M. Members in July. The color of ink used "wine-red" is EXACTLY THE SAME COLOR as "The Ohio Giant" @ $2.50, listed in Fall 1951 catalog. (THE OHIO GIANT is the same variety as Ulery's Orchid Velvet, "THE OHIO GIANT" is the darkest loudest wine-orchid we've ever sold! Gigantic flowers of heaviest substance, 6 to 8 buds. Round furry leaves, thick stems. If you can't locate the Spring catalog, remember our Fall 1951 catalog SAVES YOU MONEY — as follows:

Blue Eyed Beauty	NOW $2.50
Blue Warrior	NOW $1.25
Lady Geneva	NOW $2.00
Lavender Beauty	NOW $2.25
Orchid Wonder	NOW $2.50
Snow Prince	NOW $2.75
Violet Beauty	NOW $2.25
White Girl	NOW $2.50

ALL OUR PRICES ARE POSTPAID IF YOU BUY ONE PLANT OR A DOZEN!

We sell genuine glass wick — Write for prices.

OUR CATALOG is FREE

Write today or order direct from this page, we'll include a copy in your package. You'll notice a lot of older varieties are discontinued because the newer kinds are much nicer. Why not be one of our customers, and ALWAYS get our catalog "ahead of the rush". Earliest orders get biggest plants. Sound business practice forces us to economize by eliminating the non-buyers from our regular mailing list. Don't be left out! If you just order the small "POKON PLANT FOOD" @ 45c postpaid, you'll be one of "our customers" — get our catalog regularly twice a year!

BIG NEWS — We've Moved. Our greenhouse is not full of African Violets yet but we can still take good care of all mail orders you send us.

"African Violets For Beginners and Collectors"

MRS. JENNIE SPOUTZ

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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The Romances of the AFRICAN VIOLET

Mary E. Tupper, Va.

African violets have such charming, pleasing names which easily weave into their romances. Blue Boy and Blue Girl are in love. They court under the Gorgeous, Ozark Skies of Heavenly Blue. Snow King is hesitant in selecting his partner. He ponders over his thoughts of the beautiful White Queen who always wears an Amethyst, the delightful Dainty Maid who adores Sapphires, and the sweet White Lady who thrills over a corsage of Water Lilies. Redhead is smiling at the shy Blushing Maiden while Sailor Boy flirts with the Red-headed Girl. Little Pink Girl is coy as she makes (Blue) Eyes at the Sailor. But Sailor Girl knows he is to belong to her and it is they who will sail through life together.

Blue Birds and Blue Butterflies are flitting about as the Purple Prince and the Lilac Princess cross the Lily Pond. He is magnificent in his Dark Plum suit and she is lovely wearing a Bi-color and Blue Velvet dress which is trimmed with Old Lace and Ruffles of Rose Purple. The Commodore and Myrtle pause to listen to the Red Bird who is filling the air with his song of joy at seeing the Gypsy Queen and Gypsy Princess plucking Lily Pads. The water Ripples as they wade and play in their happiness, as tonight they must be clever and gay when they read the palm of the mighty Red King.

As the evening passes, the dignified Norseman strolls into the gardens to meditate and dream about his sweetheart. He comes on to a merry group. The surprised Norseman Crinkles his brow at finding Mary Wac, Jessie and Judy dancing with the Mentor Boy at Midnight. But his own Lady Geneva is not among the Merry-makers. She is waiting at her balcony to throw good night wishes to her love.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Please help us find the following members. These addresses are not correct.

Mrs. Myrtle Strange
Park Hotel
Sayre, Penna.

Mrs. Leon J. Smeltzer
1304 Benter
Lansing, Mich.

From my house to your house a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Alma Wright

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Advertising rates on request.

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

THE SELECT VIOLET HOUSE

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR TO OUR AFRICAN VIOLET FRIENDS

SINCERE SEASONS GREETINGS

To tne leaders of Our National Society who have so willingly given so much to make Our Society and magazine the best for us may you continue to grow and progress in the coming year.

MARY MEEDS

BOX 1444 **YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO**

"YELLOW BROWN GIRL"

Yellow Brown Girl has a yellow brownish colored crinkled cup shaped flower. Nice regular girl foliage. This is the only variety of African violet that we know of that has any yellow.

You hobbyists will like this one and if you are hybridizing we can't see how you can afford not to add it to your collection as this variety will produce you some unusual seedlings.

Undivided plants in bloom or about ready to bloom out of 2¼ inch pots $5.00 each, shipped PARCEL POST SPECIAL DELIVERY.

AN INVITATION TO YOU!

WELCOME TO THE GREENHOUSE 9 to 5 P.M. - LOCATED AT 2023 BELMONT AVENUE ON ROUTE 90 NORTH OF YOUNGSTOWN.

1952 Convention

The African Violet Society of America Convention will be held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois on April 24, 25 and 26.

Information will be mailed out to all members in March 1952 Magazine.

Plan now to bring plants for

THE EXHIBIT

VIOLETS ABROAD

Beatrice Fortney, Ohio

Over in Heidelberg, Germany, a nephew is stationed with our occupation troops in the Chaplain Division. He has been interested in horticulture since a small lad and it was he who first interested me in saintpaulias.

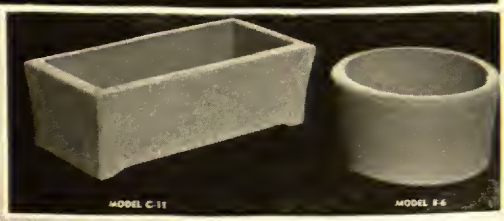
During the summer of 1950, in a letter, he asked if I would try to send him some African violets. In that locality he had found such poor plants and then only Blue Boys. But the postal authorities would not accept my plants because they were not government inspected. At the Dayton Convention, I related my regret to Ruth Yoars. She graciously said she'd try and started three plants on their journey on May 17th via air mail. On May 21st Charles Applegate received the parcel in Heidelberg. It was well labeled and marked "Rush."

Moist sphagnum moss was wrapped about the soil and roots, each plant was wrapped individually and snugly and arrived in fine condition. Pink Beauty and Rosalie were in bloom and Red Orchid Girl in bud.

To quote from his letter, "The African violets caused quite a sensation in the office; not only among the Germans but the chaplains and soldiers as well. They could scarcely believe they had come from the States and were still so fresh."

The experience has been so gratifying that Charles and I both say "Hat's Off" to Mrs. Yoars.

VERMICULITE POTTERY



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ARTIST PRAISES V-P

I had an African Violet in a Model B-6 V-P planter, which bloomed nine months and got so large that I had to divide it.

From this plant I took three small plants measuring about five inches across, and planted these in the Model C-11 in April, 1951.

In August, 1951 they were in bloom and measured 16 inches across as shown in the picture. Never before have my violets done so well -- no watery stems -- each blossom large and strong in color -- with leaves so healthy.

BELLE BOGARDUS ROBBINS

BELLE BOGARDUS ROBBINS STUDIOS

West Lafayette, Indiana

Granger Gardens Offers

A real opportunity to have the newest and best for the least. The varieties listed below are lovely well developed rooted cuttings of the latest introductions. And they will be available in early spring. Delivery will be made just as soon after March , 1952 as the weather will permit. Orders will be filled in the order which they are received. All merchandise is guaranteed to be from the originator and is authentically named.

DELIGHT — solid light blue double, .75

SEA GIRL — medium blue double on girl foliage, $1.00

SAILORS DELIGHT — light blue double on girl foliage, $1.00

GENEVA RAINBOW — deep red bloom with frosty white edge, $1.00

GORGEOUS BLUE WONDER — white background shaded with a blue overlay, .75

ORCHID DOUBLE NEPTUNE — an orchid sport of Double Neptune, .75

PINK DELIGHT — light, clear pink flower, bronzy foliage, .75

LACY GIRL — Large deeply fringed purple flower on heavy foliage, $1.00

AZURE BEAUTY — lovely large white blooms with pastel and deep shadings, $1.00

INNOCENCE — pure white flower on red veined foliage underneath, .75

ORCHID SUNSET — beautiful new double orchid on good foliage, .75

STAR SAPPHIRE — new star shaped blossom of lovely Ceylon blue color, $1.00

ORCHID DOUBLE GIRL — orchid double on girl foliage, .75

CARMEN — a lovely new deep rich red on waxy foliage, .75

BLUE HEIRESS — large duPont blue blooms on duPont girl foliage, $1.00

SNOW PRINCE — the best white so far, can't be excelled, .75

RED VELVET — Ulery's newest Red, large velvety blooms on dark veined foliage, .75

APPLE BLOSSOM — very large white blooms with pastel shading on duPont foliage, $1.00

BLUE DELIGHT — two tone like Blue Eyed Beauty but a darker blue eye, .75

ROSE MARIE — a true rose colored blossom of good size on pretty foliage, .75

When ordering, please enclose your check or money order and on orders under $5.00 please add 60c for postage and packing. On orders over $5.00 order will be sent postpaid.

May we suggest that you try our own specially prepared potting soil, not a commercially prepared product, but the same one we grow our plants in. 3# for $1.10 or 5# for $1.65 postpaid.

Our aim is to please you above all else by shipping good healthy plants that will reach you in good condition. We are Federally Certified and eligible to ship anywhere. For those who wish to purchase plants, please write for our price list.

GRANGER GARDENS

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Greenhouses are open from 8:00 a. m. to 5:30 p. m. daily, and are located one mile east of the school at Granger, Ohio. Also open Sundays and Holidays.

Mentor Boy Seedlings

Martha Browning, Tenn.

My Mentor Boy

This Mentor Boy plant is almost four years old and has only been without blooms twice for a period of two or three weeks.

A few days after the first blooms opened, I noticed a seed pod forming and began to worry about this plant. Soon there were four or five seed pods, and then I discovered that there was a deformity in the blooms. The style grows out between the stamens and thus pollinates itself.

Mrs. M. K. Walsh, formerly of Oak Ridge has a sister plant that forms its own seed pods.

Mrs. R. L. Browning of Flemingsberg, Kentucky, has the mother plant and it also formed seed pods, and I have watched three successive generations of plants raised from leaf cuttings in Oak Ridge and the trait is prevalent, through all five generations.

What is more, a cross of this Mentor Boy and another plant produces its own seed pods as you will note by the accompanying photograph. Some seedlings raised from the self-pollinated seed pods are doing the same thing.

Most of the seedlings have Mentor Boy flowers, but very different foliage; however there are a few outstanding flowers —one a beautiful red.

Above left, plant with interesting foliage. A cross between Mentor Boy and another variety. Note the large seed pod. This plant is also self-pollinating.

Below left, a Mentor Boy seedling with spoon type foliage and Mentor Boy blossoms. From Mrs. Henry Kroeger's collection.

Society Activities and Appreciation

Mrs. Radtke

How do you like our colored cover? It is the realization of a long standing dream of our good editor. (I should apologize for the plant -- after a couple of hours in the hot lights it was a little sad -- if there is a next time, I shall use a stand-in.) Our editor wants you to know that she has made preparation for several more colored covers and while she would like nothing better than to have one on every issue of the magazine she can not promise it. Unless she has some assistance, the cost is prohibitive. I can think of no better way for our commercial growers to introduce a new variety, can you?

Here is another message from Alma Wright. There seems to be some confusion as to the price of membership, which is three dollars ($3.00). There are no two dollar ($2.00) memberships.

We wish to apologize for an error in not making the change in our By-Laws that was ordered at our annual meeting. Article IV Section 4 (page 5 of our current handbook) should read: "The regions of the United States now established at ten (10) shall continue until changed by the Board of Directors with the approval of the majority of members present at any Annual Meeting. There shall also be one additional Region, comprising the Dominion of Canada. There shall be one Councilor for each of the eleven Regions who shall be appointed by the president for a term of one year."

My last efforts as your president were directed toward making available to you a pin that will identify the wearer as a member of our Society. Our good friends in Akron, Ohio, Mrs. Pearle Turner, Mrs. Walter Schmittel, Mrs. Paul Folk and Mrs. T. A. O'Niel have made this possible. The pin or button for the men's lapel is very lovely, (sterling silver with enamel) and may be obtained by sending three dollars and fifty cents ($3.50) to Mrs. Pearle Turner, 828 Kenmore Blvd., Akron, Ohio. The committee or the Society will make no profit on this as the price quoted is what the jeweler charges and includes tax, packing and mailing.

I wish on behalf of the Society to sincerely thank Helen Van Pelt Wilson for dedicating her fine new book "The Complete Book of African Violets" to our organization. It is a splendid piece of work and we are both proud and grateful.

While saying our thank-yous, also on behalf of the Society may we thank Nelle Berst, Dayton, Ohio, for the handsome gavel which she presented to us and which will be passed on to my successor, Mr. Floyd Johnson. It is with a feeling of satisfaction that I welcome him to take my place, for I know the affairs of the Society will be in very competent hands, and I am sure you will all give to Floyd the help and support you have so generously given to me.

I wish to thank my fellow officers, the Board of Directors, The Regional Councilors, our magazine editor, who should really head the list, all the committee chairmen and members -- in fact my thanks to every one of you for your cooperation in these last two busy, busy years.

Sincerely,

Myrtle Radtke

Is it not worth the effort?? All of these plants have recovered from Cyclamen mite. They are now in bud and bloom. Picture was taken on August 30th — last year.

The Optimistic Side of Mite Cure!

Harriet F. Lawton, Mass.

Photographs by the author

Is there such a thing? I decidedly say there is, and I think you will readily agree, if you look at the accompanying photographs. So much has been said about the discouragement that comes with an attack of Cyclamen mite that I would like to emphasize the other angle.

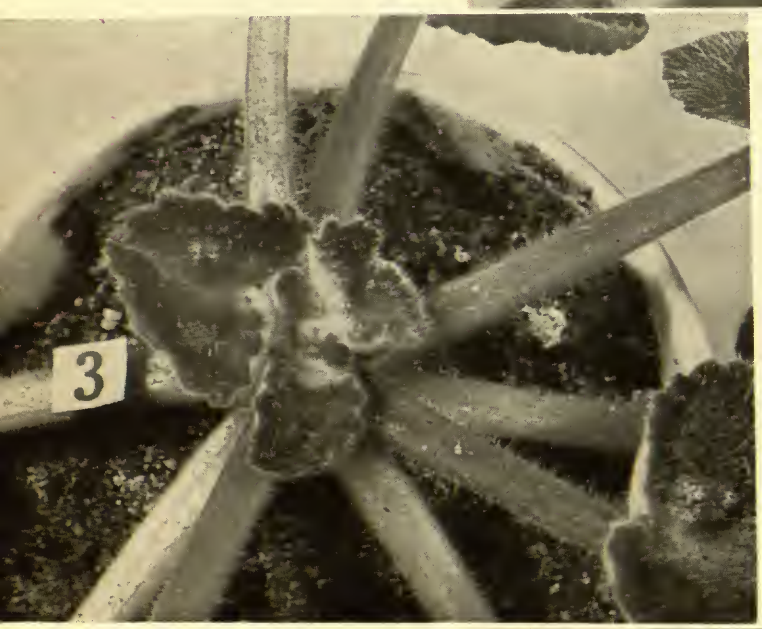
In the September issue of the magazine, there was an article entitled "Have Your Plants Cyclamen Mite?" I think some of you will be

5 A. 11/13/49. Cyclamen mite recognized and treatment started the same time as 3A.

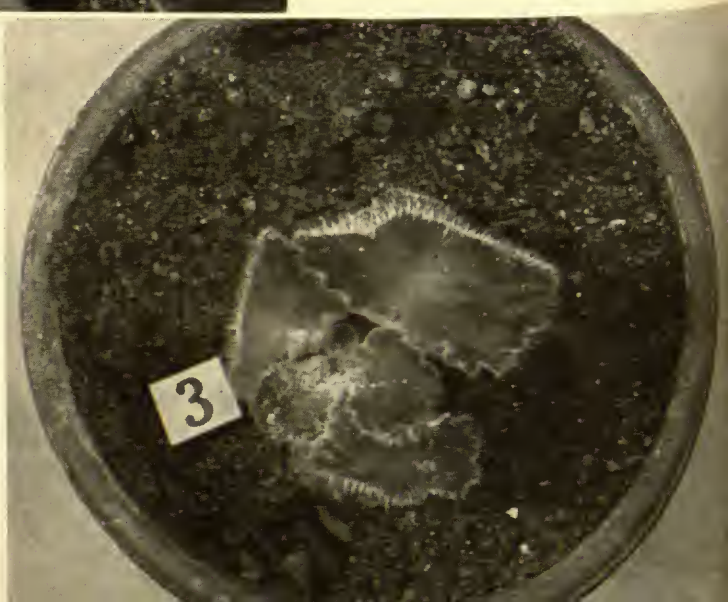
5B. 1/22/50. Picture taken the same day as was 3C and plant looks less hopeful. Strange as it may seem -- this plant is recovering. See 5C.

5C May, 1950. Unlike 3C this plant is staging a comeback.

3A. 11/13/49. Mite discovered while plant still appeared fairly husky. Spray treatments started at once.



3B. 12/13/49. Picture shows what can happen in one short month. This may be partly due to destruction of plant tissue due to a heavy spray program. However spray is necessary to kill the mite.



3C. 1/22/50. Same plant 5 weeks later. This plant finally died. It should have been shifted to a much smaller pot where the moisture could have been kept to a minimum because of the diseased tissue and inactive roots. This might not have saved it however.

Sink plants recovering from mite down to new growth. New roots will form on main stem. This photo shows sucker as side shoot. In its attempt to right itself, main stem becomes crooked. Sucker should be centered and root tilted and placed on side of pot if necessary to make symmetrical growth. If this is not done growth will be like the next photograph -- which shows the crown of the plant at one side of the pot.

A plant, having had mite was not trained and side sucker was allowed to shoot out side of pot. This does not make for a shapely plant and will hinder bloom.

interested to follow some of those same plants to see the comeback which can result by faithful treatment of mite-infested plants.

It has often been said, "If you have a bad case of mite, throw the plant away." Mite was not recognized in my collection of over two hundred plants until many of them were in the advanced stages. Some of the healthiest plants succumbed, while some of the worst recovered. Yet, the same type of spray was used on all, and treatment started at the same time. So - for collectors who have the time, I say it is worth it to try to save your plants.

A very small percentage of my two hundred plants was lost. When I say there IS an optimistic side to mite cure, I mean it! Look at the accompanying photographs and see if you don't agree. Instead of feeling apologetic when showing sick plants, I can now feel the pride which every grower enjoys!! It is worth it, so, if your plants have mite, give it a try!!

COME down out of the clouds -- you can't conduct a meeting up there.

Madame President !

Florence Foltz, Penna.

Madame President . . . come down out of the clouds; you can't conduct a meeting up there. Sure, you won the election, but that doesn't mean that the club members consider you a little "Greek Goddess." You were chosen because they wanted a good leader this year, and as the months go by, you will come to realize that there is more to being President than just the honor of having been selected!

There are committee chairmen to be appointed, and they should be chosen carefully. Just because Jane Jones makes delicious desserts, don't conclude that she'll make a good program chairman. By the same token, the fact that Sue Smith needs a new permanent doesn't detract from her ability to plan a good show. Most important, don't be influenced by those helpful souls who "just know so-and-so would be your best choice for the such-and-such committee." You were elected; select the people YOU think best.

Advance publicity via the local radio and press is good to get the members enthused about what you have in mind for the coming year. It is also nice to contact your prospective chairmen, either by phone, or a short visit, before the meeting. There may be a valid reason why one or another will not be able to serve, and it may save both of you unnecessary embarrassment if you learn all the facts beforehand. Then, too, if you explain the duties of the particular chairmen, so that each knows what is expected of her, there will be less confusion later on.

Make it a point to start your meetings on time. As long as there are meetings there will be stragglers, but if the meeting is in progress when they arrive, their late arrival won't gain them any attention and might possibly induce them to get there on time next time.

Another gigantic job is to keep order, and keep on the subject during the meeting.

REMEMBER to give credit where credit is due . . . how much could you get done without your faithful workers?

There are few things as annoying as having a good program drowned out by a couple of individuals discussing everything from the latest scandal to prepared cake mix. It isn't in any of the Rules of Order, but the day will surely come when it will be legal for the President to bang her gavel -- full strength -- on the head of any individual who persists in talking during the program.

Always dress appropriately; avoid frills, clanking jewelry and silly hats. Being well-groomed will give you added poise, which is an essential quality for a good President.

Remember to give credit where it is due. The great success of your pet project will go down in the history of the club as one of your accomplishments, but could you have done it without your faithful workers? It might be an opportune spot right here to urge every member to willingly take her share of work when so requested. The more workers there are, the more good can be accomplished.

Last but not least, study good women speakers, practice their grace and poise. You needn't be an actress or a clothes horse but you can prove that good grooming and brains go together, by being both charming and efficient. And with things running so smoothly, maybe you CAN climb back up on your cloud and sail through the rest of your term basking in the reflected glory of your African Violet Society.

THE DAY will surely come when it will be legal for the president to bang her gavel on the head of any individual who persists in talking during the program.

A BEAUTIFUL CORSAGE . . . .

OUT OF FRESHLY FALLEN BLOOMS

Lorna Anderson, Mich.

Many times, I have wished that we could find a way to use the lovely fallen blossoms from our favorite plant. After many unsuccessful attempts, and much thinking instead of sleeping at night, I finally succeeded in making these fallen blooms into a dainty corsage that will stay fresh for hours!

This may sound like a difficult feat, but you too will soon master this beautiful art -- with a bit of practice.

You will need the finest wire that is to be had in floral work (No. 30), also a little heavier green enamel wire for the leaves, some yellow cotton, and a roll of green parafilm.

First step -- use one four inch length of wire, take a small piece of yellow cotton no larger than a very small pea, wrap it over the end of wire, bend wire back over cotton about a quarter of an inch, pinch and shape into a small ball size of stamen (Chart 1 and 2). Take an inch long strip of parafilm and, holding the wired cotton ball between the thumb and index finger of the left hand, wrap the parafilm so it covers a little of the cotton ball and extends down the wire about a quarter of an inch. Wrap this part as tight and small as possible.

Second step -- insert wire, unwrapped end first, in front side of violet below stamen, and carefully pull through until cotton is resting snugly under stamen. Use a three inch piece of parafilm. Now, holding the wired blossom gently between fingers of left hand (blossom facing palm of hand) start wrapping as close to blossom as possible. Finish winding the wire to the entire length. (Chart 3, 4 and 5).

Take several of these wired blossoms, carefully pinch stems together into any shape you desire, using a small bit of parafilm to hold together, if you like. (Chart 6).

Third step -- for leaves, I use small side leaves and a few middle leaves of the easily grown grapeleaf ivy with a half inch of stem left on. Insert enameled wire on back of leaf close to center vein just above the first pair of veins, across the front of leaf, and into the back side again. Now bend the wire (as a hairpin) down about an inch, squeeze gently together and start wrapping with parafilm a little above leaf stem. (Chart 7, 8 and 9). The leaves will shine nicely if rubbed with a dry cloth before working with them.

Fourth step -- fasten desired leaves together with a little parafilm (Chart 10) and arrange behind the wired violets; be sure the parafilm shows, to look like stems.

Now, you can bend wired violets and leaves any way you wish. A pretty bow -- I prefer gold ribbon -- completes the corsage. (Chart 11).

Note: Use only freshly fallen blossoms, as they hold up better. The grapeleaf ivy will hold up well for several hours, also. A few drops of cake coloring in a little water, or Tintex, may be used to tint the cotton. For a dainty personal touch, I conceal a small piece of green cotton under the ribbon with a few drops of my favorite perfume on it.

Illustrations on opposite page were done by Mrs. Anderson's daughter Marie Nichols and show step by step how to design an attractive corsage from fallen blossoms.

Chart I

Chart II

Chart III

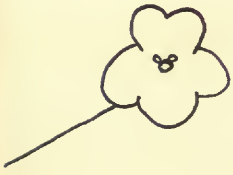


Chart IV

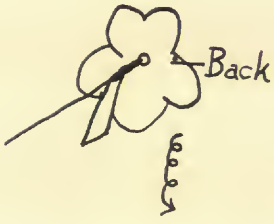


Chart V

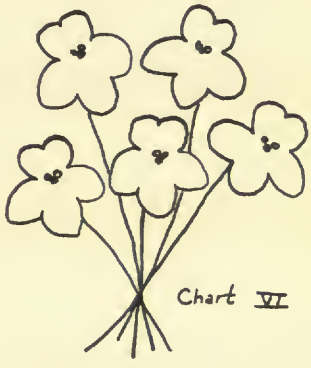


Chart VI

Chart VII

Chart VIII

Chart IX

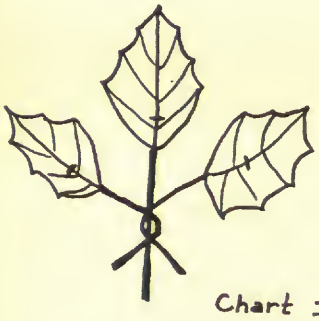


Chart X

Chart XI

M. Nichols

A Note on The Cytology of Saintpaulias[1]

G. B. Wilson [2]

During the late Fall and early Winter of 1948, a preliminary survey of the cytology of several varieties and species of Saintpaulia was made. Material for this study was provided by Evan Roberts of the Department of Horticulture, Michigan State College. The primary aim was to check the chromosome number. The only count which was found reported in the literature was that of Suigura (1936) who gives 2n = 28 as the number for Saintpaulia ionantha.

Both root tip materials and flower buds were used for study but in no case was anything like a complete cytological investigation made. Most meiotic and premeiotic counts were made from aceto-carmine squash preparations, while most root tip counts were made from slides prepared according to the standard Feulgen squash method. There appears to be a strong periodicidy in meiosis which makes it rather difficult to find suitable stages except at specific times. The most favorable time so far as the material then available was concerned, appeared to be about 3 p. m.

Table I gives a summary of all the information available to date. All counts given are based on at least two separate samples with not less than 10 cells counted from each sample. Figure 1 shows first telophase of meiosis from the variety Blush. Fifteen chromosomes can clearly be counted at each pole.

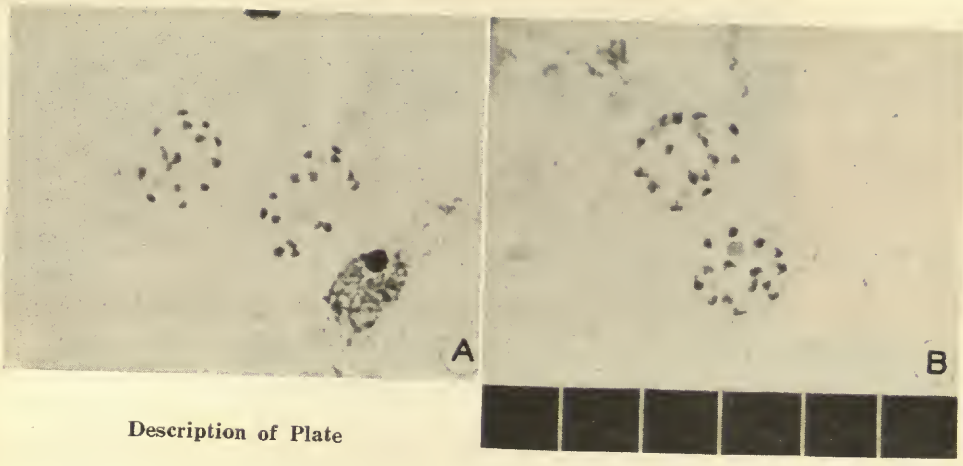
As noted in Table I the number appears to be 15 in all cases including S. ionantha so that it would appear possible that previous counts are in error. The small size of the chromosomes would render such an error very easy to make especially in sectioned or otherwise relatively unflattened material.

Of the six varieties for which meiotic material was available only one appears to be in any way abnormal. Storm King appears to be heterozygous for an inversion judging by the relatively high frequency of First Anaphase bridges. In most cases the expected accompanying fragment was not observed presumably owing to its small size but in a few well flattened cells it was clearly present.

TABLE I

MATERIAL	ROOT-TIP OR PRE-MEIOTIC COUNT	MEIOSIS	REMARKS
S. ionantha	30		
Blue Boy	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Girl	30		
White Lady		15 II*	Meiosis regular
Plum	30	15 II	Meiosis regular
Double	30		
Pink Beauty	30		
Blush	30	15 II	
Blue Leatherneck		15 II	
Storm King		15 II	Meiosis regular
Blue Amazon	60		22% first
Pink Amazon	30		Anaphase bridges.
S. grotei	30		20% bad pollen
S. tongwensis	30		

*Roman numeral II indicates normal pairing at meiosis.



Description of Plate

Figs. A & B -- First Telophase of Meiosis in Saintpaulia, variety Blush. Note fifteen chromosomes at each pole. Each division of the scale represents 10 microns.

The only polyploid detected was Blue Amazon which is a tetraploid as based on an x number of 15. The large size of the stomata in the leaves of this variety as opposed to the size in known diploids led to attempting the use of stomata size as a criterion of polyploidy. However, Pink Amazon proved to have equally large stomata and has since been shown to be diploid. Stomatal size in Saintpaulia, therefore, appears to be a poor indicator of chromosome number. So far as measurements have been made, pollen grain size is likely to prove a more reliable index.

1 — The author wishes to thank Mr. P. G. Coleman for the photomicrography.

2 — Dr. G. B. Wilson, Associate Professor of Botany at Michigan State College.

NO PLANT FOOD

Ruby Jones, Ill.

Am I the first to raise African violets organically? No artificial fertilizers have been used on my violets and each one is a specimen healthy plant. They bloom continuously and my double Duchess, raised from a leaf, has gorgeous foliage, several blooms, and contrary to general belief, has not been forced by feeding with the exception of worm castings.

Insects do not like the taste of healthy plants and artificial fertilizers kill the organisms, that protect plants from destructive organisms. Artificial stimulants disrupt the team work which takes place in organic-rich soil between tiny fungi and the roots of plants.

A well composted plant retains moisture and by washing plants (by means of a thorough spraying) with warm water, drying them in the shade, away from drafts, beautiful specimens will result and the lovely saintpaulias can be an everlasting delight to all who are appreciative of beauty.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

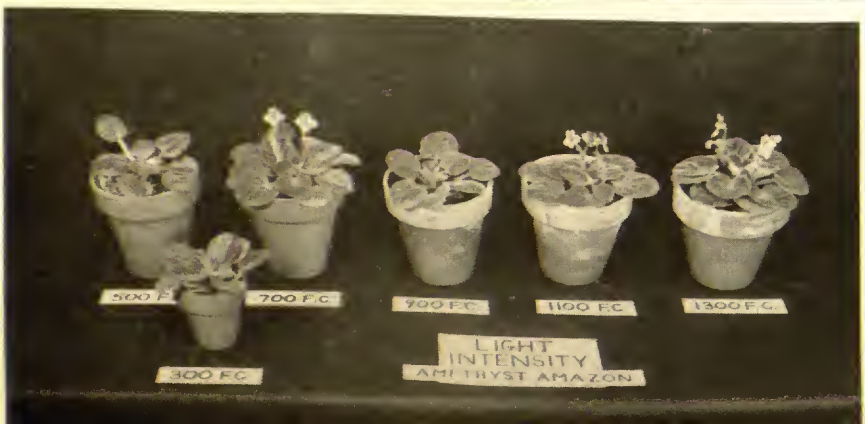


Figure 4

Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University

Richard F. Stinson

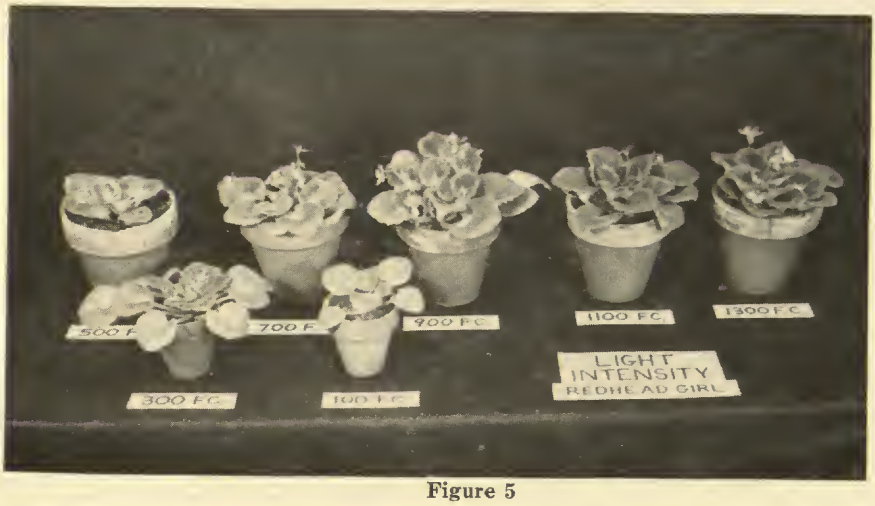


Figure 5

The following six experiments were conducted at the Ohio State University Greenhouses under the African Violet Society Fellowship for 1950-1951.

1. The effect of various light intensities upon flower bud formation (initiation) and development.

2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.

3. The effect of artificial light upon plant growth and flower development.

4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

With the exception of part of experiment number one, all the experiments have been completed and results are given in photographs and tables. All plants used in these experiments were donated by Mr. Henry Peterson of Cincinnati, Ohio. All the plants were from leaf petiole cuttings made the first week in July 1950 and were grown as "single crown" plants.

Experiment 1. The effect of various light intensities upon flower bud initiation and development.

Seven cloth-covered boxes with the following maximum light intensities in foot-candles were used: 100, 300, 500, 700, 900, 1100, and 1300. Plant samples of the variety Mentor Boy were taken weekly for microscopical examination to determine the maximum light intensity under which flower buds are initiated and developed. Processing and examination of this material requires considerable time, and results of this phase of the study have not yet been determined. Four other varieties that were grown in this experiment for visual comparison were Pink Girl, White Lady, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 show representative plants from each variety in each plot. It is seen that no plants of Amethyst Amazon survived the 100 fc. treatment and that the variety White Lady has a similar fate at 1300 fc. The photographs were made on June 1, 1951.

Table 1 shows the average number of flowers per plant in each variety and in each treatment. Flowers were removed from each plant and counted once a week. It may be seen that in general the greatest flowering was at about 1100 fc.

TABLE 1. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

Average number of flowers per plant until June 1, 1951

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	0.0	0.0	0.5	26.0	19.4	26.2	27.1
White Lady	0.0	4.0	0.0	9.3	19.8	8.8	
Pink Girl	0.0	4.4	4.5	19.9	25.8	36.9	15.3
Amethyst Amazon		2.5	0.0	6.4	8.3	10.8	8.6
Redhead Girl	0.0	8.0	0.8	14.2	8.5	30.3	20.1

Table 2 shows the average diameter per plant of each variety in each treatment. This table shows that in general the plants with the greatest diameters were from the 900 fc. plot.

TABLE 2. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

Average plant diameters on June 1, 1951 (in inches)

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	4.4	5.9	6.0	8.3	8.2	7.4	7.1
White Lady	2.3	4.0	4.3	6.4	7.0	5.1	
Pink Girl	3.5	4.4	4.5	6.5	6.8	6.9	4.4
Amethyst Amazon		4.9	4.5	5.8	4.8	5.7	5.4
Redhead Girl	4.3	6.4	5.3	6.8	6.8	6.6	5.7

This experiment indicates that the most satisfactory light intensity for growth and flower development in the Saintpaulia is about 1,000 fc.

Commercial growers will probably find the purchase and use of a light meter is a profitable idea. A satisfactory light meter for this purpose is the Light Meter model 8DW40-Y16 Lamp Department, General Electric Co., Nela Park, Cleveland 12, Ohio. The cost is approximately thirteen dollars. On the basis of experience at the University Greenhouses it would appear that natural light changes occur rapidly enough so that in a greenhouse light readings should be made at least once every two weeks.

For amateur growers of Saintpaulias who may not wish to purchase a light meter, the following shading program is suggested:

April, May, June, July -- 1 layer Muslin Cloth (or equivalent)

August, Sept., Oct. -- 4 to 2 layers of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

Table 3 shows the date the first flower appeared on each variety in each treatment. This table shows that in general earliest flowering occurred in the 1100 fc. plot.

TABLE 3. LIGHT INTENSITY EXPERIMENT

First flowering dates

Foot-Candles of light

VARIETIES	100	300	500	700	900	1100	1300
Mentor Boy	Never	Never	May 18	April 10	April 13	**March 23**	April 10
White Lady	Never	Never	Never	May 4	**March 16**	April 20	
Pink Girl	Never	June 1	May 26	March 30	March 16	**Feb. 23**	March 30
Amethyst Amazon		May 11	Never	May 4	April 27	April 27	**April 20**
Redhead Girl	Never	April 27	May 18	April 10	March 30	**Dec. 25**	**April 10**

November, Dec., Jan. -- 1 layer of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

February, March -- 2 to 4 layers of cheese cloth (or equivalent)

This suggested program is based on mid-western conditions and assumes a south window, with no window screen, (which will decrease the light by perhaps 40%) and exposure to full sunlight at all times. People who are growing Saintpaulias at high elevations or in southern parts of the country may expect to have higher light intensities than those encountered in Ohio. Those living farther north may expect to have lower light intensities.

Experiment 2. The effect of several temperatures upon growth and flower development.

This experiment was designed to determine the response of this plant when grown at temperatures higher than those usually used in commercial production. In this experiment three boxes enclosed with a clear plastic cloth were used. Two were equipped with automatic heating cables and ventilating devices to maintain constant temperatures within. One of these boxes was maintained at 80° F and the other at 70° F. The third box was under the usual greenhouse temperature conditions (60° F night temperature). The varieties grown in each treatment were: Mentor Boy, White Lady, Pink Girl, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Representative plants from each variety in each treatment are shown in figures 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 which were made June 1, 1951.

Figures 7, 8, 9 and 10 on next page.

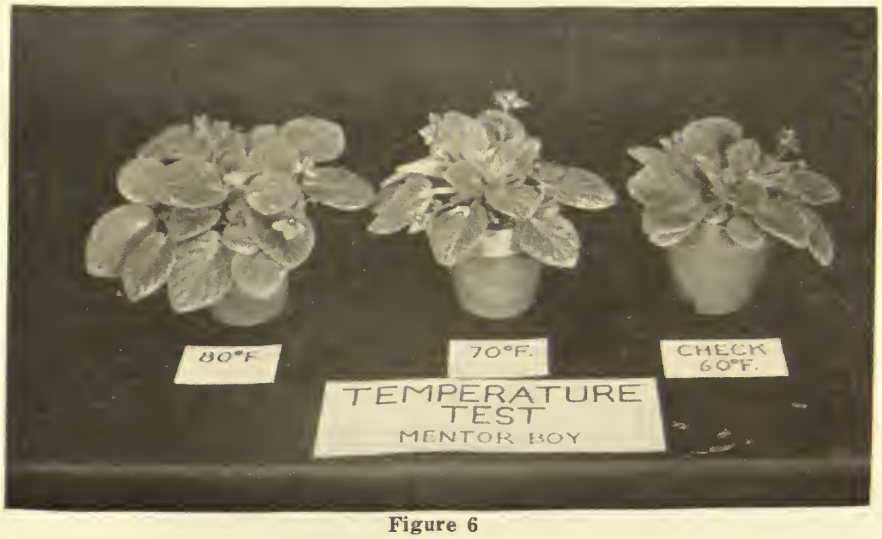
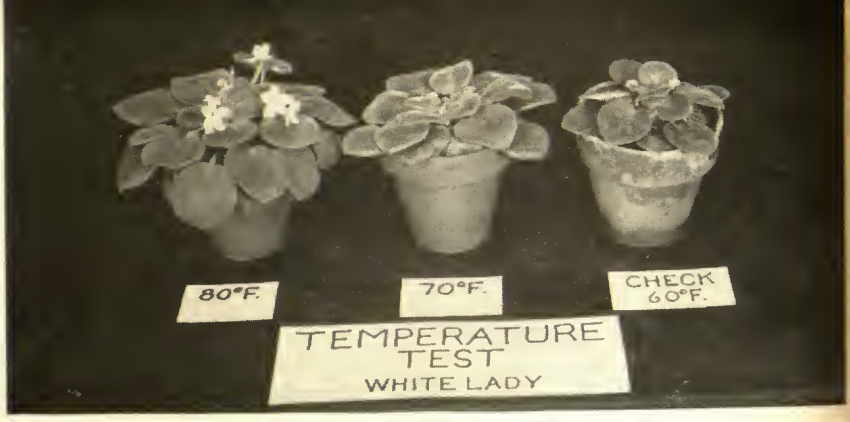


Figure 6

Figure 7



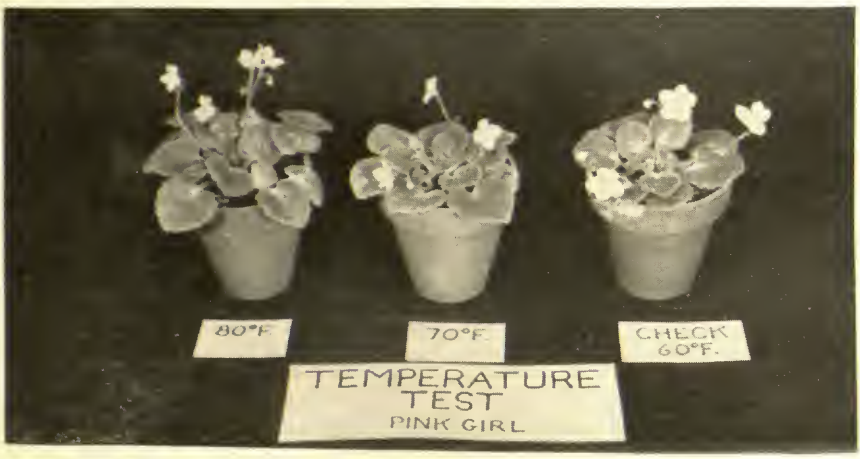
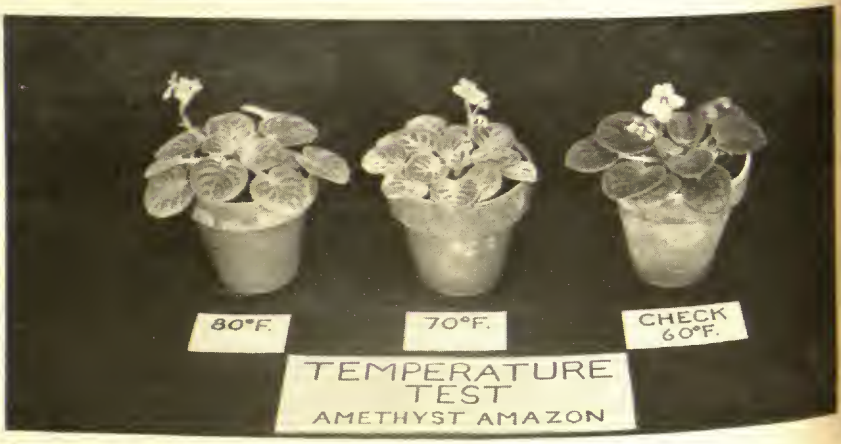


Figure 8

Figure 9



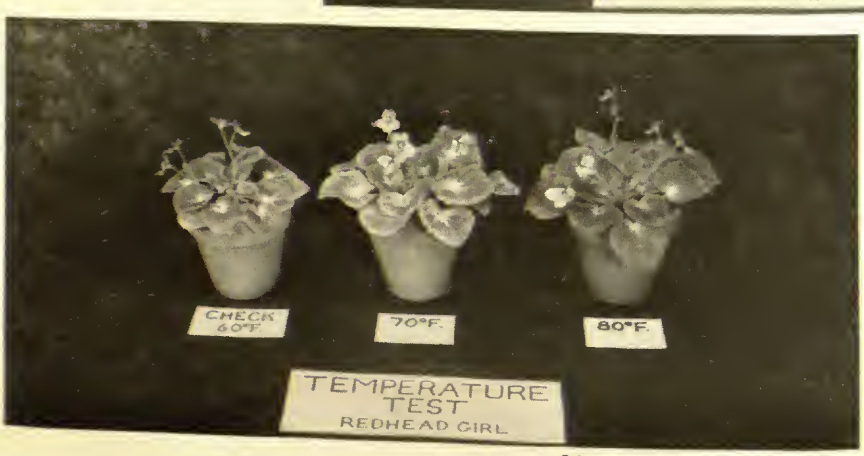


Figure 10

Table 4 shows the average number of flowers per plant in each variety and the average plant diameter on June 1, 1951.

TABLE 4. TEMPERATURE EXPERIMENT

Flower production and plant diameters

	Average flowers per plant To June 1, 1951			Average plant diameters (in inches) June 1, 1951		
VARIETIES	60° F	70° F	80° F	60° F	70° F	80° F
Mentor Boy	18.0	34.4	39.4	7.3	8.8	7.9
White Lady	7.7	13.1	30.3	5.2	6.5	7.7
Pink Girl	11.3	24.3	29.4	5.6	6.2	6.8
Amethyst Amazon	2.9	5.8	10.8	5.7	5.3	6.3
Redhead Girl	12.1	16.8	22.8	6.3	6.6	7.3

From the tables (4 and 5) it would appear that the best growth, earliest flowering, and greatest flowering occurred at 80° F. However, as several of the photographs show, the plants at 80° F produced flat, lighter colored leaves when compared to the other plants, and although measurements were not taken, it was quite apparent that the flower size was reduced at this temperature. It is felt that if this experiment had continued longer the data given in table 4 might have been different. It may be seen that in nearly every case the plants at 70° F were superior to the plants in the check plot (60° F night).

This experiment seems to indicate that the best temperature for growing Saintpaulias is about 70° F. It is interesting to note that this is about the temperature at which automatically heated houses are usually maintained during the winter months.

Experiment 3. The effect of artificial light upon plant growth and flower development.

The plants in this experiment were grown in a windowless basement where the only source of light was artificial illumination. The temperature averaged about 65° F and rarely varied more than 4 or 5 degrees in the course of a twenty-four hour period. The relative humidity was also nearly constant at about 60%. Mentor Boy was the only variety grown in this experiment. The lights were turned on at 8 A. M. and off at 8 P. M., giving twelve hours of light per day.

Table 5 shows the date the first flower appeared in each variety in each treatment.

TABLE 5. TEMPERATURE EXPERIMENT

First flowering dates

VARIETIES	60° F	70° F	80° F
Mentor Boy	March 23	March 23	Feb. 23
White Lady	April 13	March 23	Feb. 16
Pink Girl	April 10	Feb. 23	March 2
Amethyst Amazon	May 4	April 20	April 10
Redhead Girl	April 13	March 16	Feb. 23

Figures 11 and 12 show representative plants from each plant. These photographs were taken April 7, 1951.

For table 6 and figures 11 and 12 see next page.

Although table 6 indicates that the earliest flowering, most flowers, and largest plants were in the incandescent lamp plot, the photograph shows that these plants had leaves with very long petioles, giving a very ungainly appearance. Plants in the "Gold" fluorescent plot also had long petioles, but had almost no flowers.

Table 6 shows the treatments given, the diameters of plants, the flower production, and the date of first flowering in each plot.

TABLE 6. ARTIFICIAL LIGHT EXPERIMENT
Plant diameters, flower production and first flowering dates

TYPE OF LIGHT	Light Intensity in Foot-Candles	Average Plant Diameter (in inches) May 1, 1951	Average Flowers Per Plant To May 1, 1951	Date First Flowering
DAYLIGHT FLUORESCENT	100	7.9	0.1	April 27
" "	200	8.3	7.3	March 2
" "	300	8.8	12.4	Feb. 3
WHITE FLUORESCENT	300	7.9	17.0	Feb. 16
GOLD FLUORESCENT	300	10.2	0.1	April 27
BLUE FLUORESCENT	300	7.4	6.9	Feb. 10
INCANDESCENT	300	11.0	40.1	Jan. 19

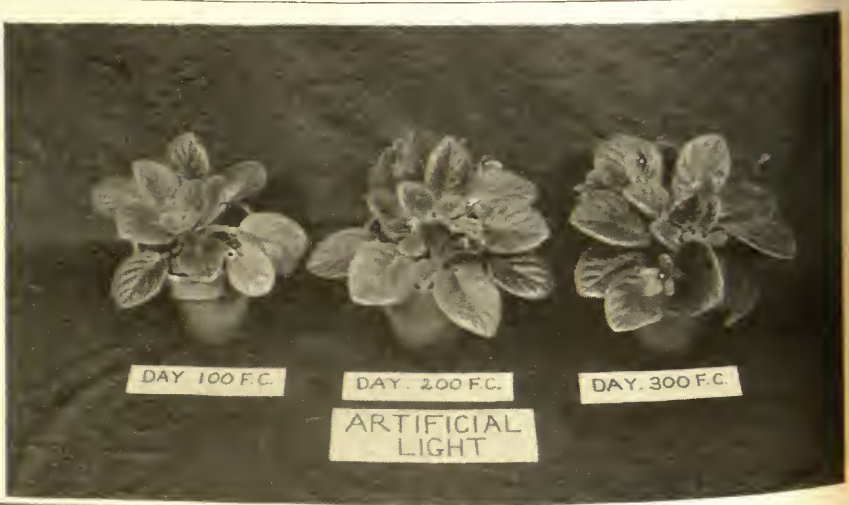


Figure 11

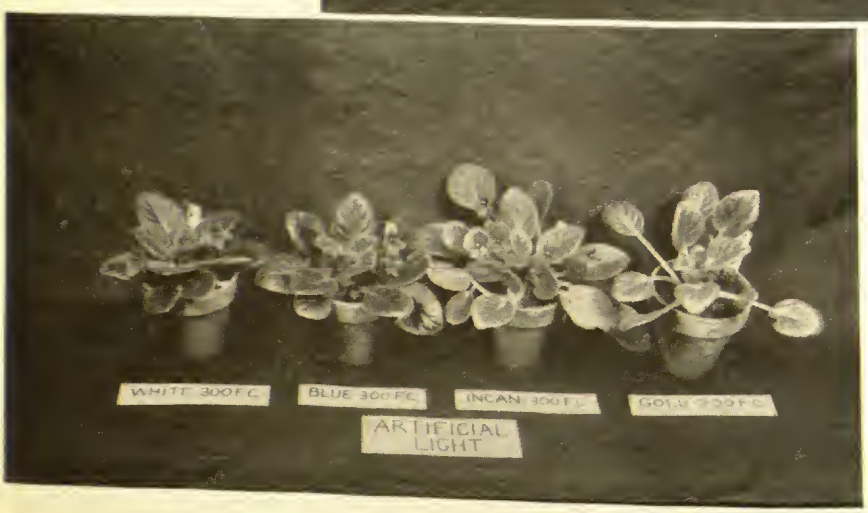


Figure 12

This experiment shows that satisfactory growth of Saintpaulias may be attained with "Daylight" or "White" fluorescent tubes giving 300 fc. of light 12 hours per day at a temperature of about 65° F and a relative humidity of about 60%. Three hundred foot-candles of light will strike the plants if a two-tube 40 watt reflector is placed 11 inches above the rim of the pots. All plants should be directly beneath the reflector because the light intensity diminishes rapidly beyond the edges of the reflector. A larger lighting fixture may give 300 fc. from a greater distance above the plants and may enlarge the area covered by a satisfactory light intensity.

Experiment 4. The effect of varying nutrition, organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen, and soil pH upon the growth and flowering of Saintpaulia.

The purpose of this experiment was to determine the optimum nutrient levels for this plant and to compare the effects of organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen upon the growth and flowering of this plant. The variety Mentor Boy was grown under the conditions shown in table 7.

Figures 13 and 14 were made June 1, 1951 and show representative plants from each nitrogen level plot.

The two most satisfactory treatments were those in which "White" and "Daylight" fluorescent tubes were used at 300 fc. Plants from these plots exhibited compact growth, dark foliage color, and abundant flowering.

Figure 13

Figure 14

TABLE 7. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Experimental Plan

Soil pH	Nitrate Level In Parts per Million	Potash Level In Parts per Million	Calcium Level In Parts per Million	Object Of Test
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum Nitrate Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	150	Dried Blood
6.5	25-50	20	150	(Organic Nitrogen)
6.5	5-10	20	150	Optimum Nitrate Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	150	Ammonium Sulfate
6.5	25-50	20	150	(Inorganic Nitrogen)
6.5	10-25	5-10	150	Optimum Potash Level Using
6.5	10-25	10-20	150	Calcium Sulfate
6.5	10-25	20-40	150	(Gypsum)
6.5	10-25	20	0-40	Optimum Calcium Level Using
6.5	10-25	20	100-150	Calcium Sulfate
6.5	10-25	20	200 +	(Gypsum)
4.5	10-25	20	150	
5.5	10-25	20	150	Optimum
6.5	10-25	20	150	pH Level
7.5	10-25	20	150	

Table 8 shows the flower production and plant diameters under the various nitrogen levels in which organic and inorganic sources of nitrogen were used.

TABLE 8. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameter under organic and inorganic nitrogen

	Low Organic Nitrates (5-10 ppm)	Medium Organic Nitrates (10-25 ppm)	High Organic Nitrates (25-50 ppm)	Low Nitrates (5-10 ppm)	Medium Nitrates (10-25 ppm)	High Nitrates (25-50 ppm)
Average Flowers Per Plant To June 1, 1951	19.4	13.8	11.8	20.3	17.3	12.1
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	7.0	6.0	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.4

Table 8 indicates that the greatest flower production was obtained when low levels of nitrogen were maintained. Plant diameters were not consistent with flower production, but in general had the same trends. Plants grew equally well regardless of whether the nitrogen was from an organic or inorganic source. It should be stated that to maintain low levels of nitrogen it was necessary to apply a nitrogenous fertilizer about every six weeks.

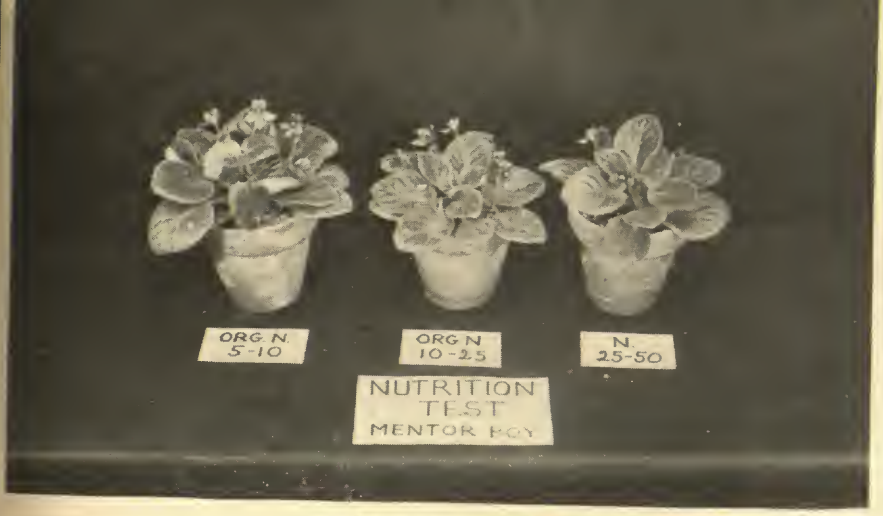


Figure 15

Figure 16

Results with the various levels of potash indicate that the plants grew equally well at all potash levels. The minimum levels were maintained with applications of potassium chloride about every six weeks.

TABLE 9. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT
Flowering and plant diameters at several potash levels

	Low Potash (5-10 ppm)	Medium Potash (10-20 ppm)	High Potash (20-40 ppm)
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	15.9	15.8	16.1
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	6.8	6.9	7.0

Figure 15 and table 9 show the results obtained with various levels of potash. These photographs were taken June 1, 1951.

Table 10 indicates that the best flowering and growth was attained at medium calcium levels. Our soil testing records indicate that this level may be maintained with an application of calcium sulfate (gypsum) about every four months. A mature plant should be given a level half teaspoon of this material which should be "watered in" immediately after application. These results probably indicate why some amateurs report success in using "egg shell water," which contains some calcium. A more practical method of getting the same results would be to use the gypsum as suggested. Calcium sulfate is preferred to "Agricultural limestone" as a source of calcium because the former will not change the soil pH while the latter will make the soil more alkaline.

The reduced flowering in the "complete" fertilizer plot is probably explainable on the

Figure 16 and table 10 show the results of the calcium levels used and the result of using a complete liquid fertilizer. The photograph was taken June 1, 1951.

TABLE 10. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters at several calcium levels and using a complete fertilizer

	Low Calcium (0-40 ppm)	Medium Calcium (100-150 ppm)	High Calcium (200 + ppm)	Complete Fertilizer (15-30-15)
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	11.2	16.3	11.0	8.8
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	6.7	7.0	6.6	6.6

basis that this fertilizer was applied only when both the nitrogen and potash were at low levels according to the soil tests. This occasionally caused the plants to lack either nitrogen or potash, which may account for the reduced flowering.

Figure 17 taken on June 1, 1951 and table 11 show the results of growing Mentor Boy at different pH levels.

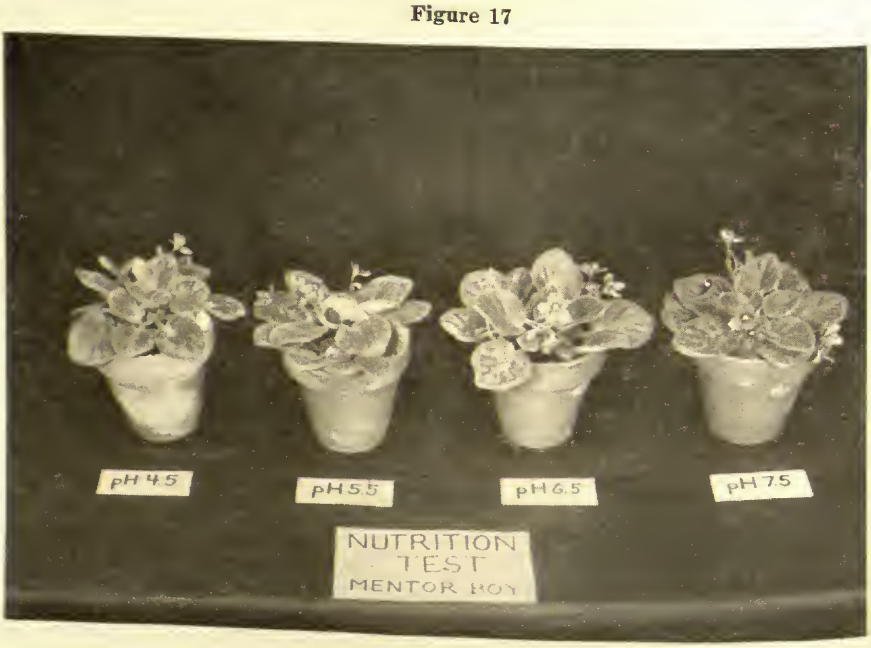
Table 11 shows that the plants are tolerant of a fairly wide pH range. It should be remembered that pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a soil, pH 7 being exactly neutral. These results indicate that the Saintpaulia probably grows best at soils near the neutral point in the pH scale.

TABLE 11. NUTRITION EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters at several pH levels

	pH 4.5	pH 5.5	pH 6.5	pH 7.5
Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	7.0	10.6	12.3	13.5
Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951	5.9	6.3	6.3	6.0

Figure 17



Experiment 5. The effect of various soil mixtures upon the growth and flowering of the Saintpaulia.

The variety Mentor Boy was grown in the soil mixtures given in table 12. Representative plants from each plot are shown in figures 18 and 19, which were made June 1, 1951.

Figures 18 and 19 on next page.

Results in this test were rather erratic but in general it appears that mixtures in which organic matter are included are superior to others. It also appears that well rotted manure or "moats" (decomposed cotton waste) are superior to the other materials used in this experiment.

TABLE 12. SOIL MIXTURE EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters using various soil mixtures

SOIL MIXTURE	Average Flowers Per plant To June 1, 1951	Average Plant Diameters In inches June 1, 1951
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS WELL ROTTED MANURE	9.3	7.0
1 PART SILT 1 PART "MOATS"	9.3	5.9
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND	4.5	5.2
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS "MOATS"	3.9	5.7
1 PART SILT 1 PART LEAFMOLD	3.9	4.9
1 PART SILT 1 PART WELL ROTTED MANURE	3.4	5.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS LEAFMOLD	2.1	5.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART SAND 2 PARTS VITALOAM	2.0	4.4
SILT	1.1	4.4
1 PART SILT 1 PART VITALOAM	0.7	3.9

Figure 18

Figure 19

Figure 20

Experiment 6. A comparison of growth and flowering in constant level and hand watering methods.

This experiment was set up to compare quality and speed of maturity under the two watering systems. In the constant level plot a water level was continuously maintained one inch below the surface of a sand layer upon which pots of Saintpaulias had been placed. The other plot was watered from the top by hand in the usual way of

watering potted plants. The varieties used in this treatment were Mentor Boy, White Lady, Pink Girl, Amethyst Amazon and Redhead Girl.

Figure 20 which was made June 1, 1951 and table 13 show the results of this experiment.

Results of these six experiments may be summarized as follows:

1. Under natural light conditions Saintpaulias grow and flower best at about 1,000 foot-candles of light.

2. Saintpaulias grow and flower best at a temperature near 70° F.

3. Saintpaulias grow satisfactorily under 300 foot-candles of artificial light from either "White" or "Daylight" fluorescent lamps that are lighted for twelve hours a day.

4. This plant grows equally well when organic or inorganic sources of nitrogen are used.

5. Mature plants should be fertilized with a complete fertilizer about every four to six weeks. One half to one teaspoon of dry complete fertilizer or a liquid complete fertilizer applied according to dilution directions should be used.

6. About one half teaspoon of calcium sulfate (gypsum)) should be applied to the soil about every four months.

7. Saintpaulias grow well at a pH near 7.0 (neutral).

8. Well-rotted manure or "moats" are the most satisfactory organic materials to use in soil mixtures for this plant.

9. Earlier flowering and slightly more abundant flowering and slightly larger plants resulted when Saintpaulias were watered by the constant level method.

A microscopical study of flower bud initiation and development in Saintpaulia will be completed in a few months. A study of suspected polyploidy in Saintpaulias is also under way and may also require several months for completion.

The following undergraduate students in Floriculture at the Ohio State University gave assistance at various times in caring for the plants and collecting the data: Gene Wagner, Carolyn Piercy, Jack Kelley, Pat Johnston, Robert Hanes and Richard Zoerb.

Table 13 shows that the plants grown by the constant level method started flowering earlier than the others, had slightly larger diameters, and, in general, produced more flowers than those watered in the usual way. The constant level watering method therefore appears to have some advantages. Another advantage is that fertilizer applications are necessary less frequently. One disadvantage is that salts tend to accumulate in the upper soil levels and may eventually lead to a condition toxic to the plant. The best way to avoid this difficulty is to thoroughly water the plants from the top at least once a month. This washes the salts accumulations out of the upper soil levels.

TABLE 13. WATERING METHOD EXPERIMENT

Flowering and plant diameters under two watering methods

VARIETIES	First Flowering Dates		Average Flowers per plant To June 1, 1951		Average Diameter of plants In inches June 1, 1951	
	Hand Watered	Constant Level	Hand Watered	Constant Level	Hand Watered	Constant Level
Mentor Boy	May 4	March 2	8.4	27.8	6.1	6.7
White Lady	June 1	March 16	0.2	6.0	4.4	5.3
Pink Girl	April 13	March 16	12.0	4.8	4.0	4.2
Amethyst Amazon	May 11	May 11	9.5	3.8	4.6	4.7
Redhead Girl	May 4	Feb. 23	4.3	16.0	4.3	5.0

Mrs. Wills

Elgin Daily Courier - NEWS photo.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO MY MOTHER

Bee Wills, Ill.

So many ask me of my success with violets. I think perhaps the answer is that I love them so much, and they bring back my brave little mother to me.

I bought the first plant I ever saw, a lovely Blue Boy, for my mother, who had been a cripple since she was two years old, a victim of polio, and for the last ten years of her life, she was bedridden. She lived with my sister, and she and I tried to bring mother as much happiness as we could through the flowers she loved so much. The first plant led to others -- until she had quite a nice collection at the time of her death. She had lived with my sister, Mrs. Ed. Housen, until four months before her passing, at which time I brought her home with me, and my sister underwent an operation.

After her death, the violets seemed to bring her back to us, and my sister and I became enthusiastic collectors, and soon started hybridizing -- which brought us even more pleasure.

I want to tell you something about how mother grew a little bunch of violets. She had them on a bedside table and it was at least four feet from a window. All the moisture they got was a daily drink of her own special tea. They bloomed continually and heavily, without a great deal of light except electric lights, as she knitted constantly, often into the wee small hours, for the Red Cross. In the late war, she was almost as happy when she received her Red Cross pin as she was with her violets.

My sister and I each have around 300 varieties, -- perhaps when all have bloomed some may be alike, but they have been collected in good faith through dealers, and some of our own seedlings. I don't believe anyone follows quite the same rule in raising violets. My sister has most of hers in fancy pots -- while I grow mine in cedar knees, choals cacti stumps, and sea shells. I find they like growing in shells and wood, and flower abundantly. I find, too, that cleanliness is a great factor. I try to keep my trays spotless and spray once a month. I use soilene as a soil sterilizer, and Detex, a D. D. T. solution, for spraying.

One of my violet interests is the two African Violet Clubs here in Elgin, and the third that is being formed. I am a member of the first club that was organized, and I am an honorary member and a consultant of the other two. I am most grateful for this honor given me; and I do enjoy the association. The other interest is sharing my plants with the sick and shut-ins. This is a real pleasure too, as there seems no finer gift than African violets to bring happiness.

Photograph by Ross Hahn

MOISTURE

If you want to give your plants a boost after they have been shipped, transplanted, etc., place pots in a fish bowl. The added amount of moisture they will thus retain, and the quick response of the plants will be surprising.

What a wonderful crisp, clean, green appearance your greenhouse plants will have during the hot summer months if you will spray them lightly early each morning with the garden hose. Be sure to use the fine mist spray, as it will not bruise the blossoms or break the foliage.

In the winter, humidity in your greenhoue may be kept at a higher level if you will spray daily with warm water. If you do not have a warm water connection to which you can attach your hose, you may use a power spray, or even a hand spray if you have one large enough to be effective.

Heat dries out the air very quickly, so more than one spraying daily may be necessary.

GREENHOUSE SUGGESTION:
By DALENE RHODES

The moist atmosphere of a greenhouse makes African violets more susceptible to disease than when grown in the drier atmosphere of a house. Pots should be kept spaced in order that the air may circulate freely between them. It is important that good ventilation be provided so the air will not become stale.

TO INCREASE MOISTURE IN YOUR HOME, SAYS EDNA EDINGFIELD

We all know that African violets prefer a warm, moist place in which to grow, but during the winter months it is often difficult to provide this atmosphere in our homes. In order to create additional moisture, I place a pan on the floor under a stand of plants and pour boiling water in it, allowing the steam to permeate the surrounding air. A friend obtained the same results by spraying her plants with warm water from a window-cleaner bottle with attached spray. The plants welcome this moist spray.

NEW CHEMICALS STILL BEST INSECTICIDE

THE CASE OF THE PARATHION SPRAYS

Carroll K. Hurd

Farm-Garden Editor, Ranch Home and Garden section of the San Jose Mercury-News, Calif.

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Parathion is the most effective insecticide now in use in California agriculture but handling of this organic phosphate compound must be conducted with a thorough knowledge and use of safeguard to prevent injury.

That is the opinion of Federal State and County Department of Agriculture officials who have now revealed results of recent conferences on the dangers of parathion, tetra-ethyl pyrophosphate (TEPP) and hexa-ethyl tetraphosphate (HETP), all chemicals of the same family.

As a result, it is anticipated that these insecticides, now widely and effectively used in California agriculture, will be included in new pest control programs but with rigid warnings of toxic effects if all safety precautions are not observed.

Already parathion, 20 times more toxic than DDT, in use only a year, has proved a boon to Santa Clara Valley fruit and nut growers. According to David T. Rayner, County Agricultural Commissioner, it has been found to be the most effective insecticide available for controlling bud moth in prunes, red spider in pears, prunes and apples, codling moth in apricots and aphids in walnuts. Its devastating effect on other insects also has made it extremely valuable to vegetable growers as well.

The truth, agricultural officials pointed out, is that farmers and commercial handlers alike will have to learn to treat this family of chemicals with the same respect as they have learned in the use of arsenic, DDT and other insecticides.

"The principal need," Rayner said, "is for an intensive campaign of education through which all persons handling parathion must learn that protective clothing and equipment are to be used with these highly toxic chemicals."

Such precautions are being emphasized by chemical firms which are including safety requirements with packages, notifying physicians of chemical poisoning treatments and are repackaging bags so that they may be handled with less danger to operators.

Parathion received "a black eye" recently following the deaths of several ranchers and an agricultural scientist, all of whom it was discovered had disregarded the basic safety measures urged for the use of most toxic chemicals.

The accidents immediately led to a statement by the University of California College of Agriculture that it could no longer recommend parathion in pest control programs because of its toxicity to warm blooded animals.

Meantime, conferences in this state and by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D. C., revealed that parathion and its related chemicals fall into the same category as many industrial chemicals and can be used safely with proper precautions.

Dr. J. G. Townsend, chief of the division of industrial hygiene, U.S. Public Health Service, in a special statement, pointed out that "science has not only brought chemicals to the farm but is now also helping the man who uses them to exercise proper precautions."

The investigations into the deaths of three parathion users revealed:

1. Keith Hughes, U.C. scientist at Riverside Experiment Station, applied the chemical to citrus with a speed sprayer using an experimental form of parathion. The wettable powder was noted to billow into his face during loading, and he wore no respirator; also used leather gloves which absorb the chemicals and keep it in contact with the skin. The report,

released by Allen B. Lemmon, chief, Bureau of Chemistry, State Department of Agriculture, showed that Hughes had long and excessive exposure to the insecticide.

2. A North Carolina tobacco grower sprayed with a mule-drawn rig, had no protection whatsoever, walked in the heavy mist all day. His clothing was saturated by parathion.

3. A Florida grower stirred sulfur and parathion with his bare hands, used no respirator.

As Lemmon pointed out, all three accidents could have been prevented by use of recommended safeguards.

Despite the findings, agricultural and chemical officials met recently to lay plans for preventing further accidents. Their conference resulted in the following:

1. Field use of bulk, wettable concentrates will be banned.

2. Parathion and related chemicals will be marketed in packages of from one to five pounds in size so that sacks need not be broken and can be emptied into the spray rigs with less contact and dust.

3. Dusts for field use will be limited to 2 per cent.

4. Liquid preparations will be prohibited.

5. Retail sales for use of gardeners will be prohibited.

6. Improved, sift-proof bags will be used.

7. Operators will have access to atropine, the only stimulant recommended for use in reviving persons affected by parathion poisoning.

8. Operators will be urged to use respirators, natural rubber gloves and protective clothing while loading.

9. It will be recommended that operators make a complete change of clothing and bathe with soap and water immediately following spraying. When bare skin is contacted, it is suggested it be washed immediately with soap and water.

Meantime, chemical firms are taking steps to find a material for mixture with parathion to make the insecticide dustless. They also are seeking a dye that would give operators an indication of skin deposits.

Parathion not only has proved phenomenally effective in control of many difficult orchard and truck crop pests but also is conquering many other insecticidal problems for which the older chemicals proved unsatisfactory or for which there has been no control. For some, it has proved a virtual lifesaver for farmers, just as DDT conquered the codling moth problem.

In addition to its lethal properties, parathion also has been found to present no residue problem on harvested fruit if used 30 days or more before harvesting. This is a paramount factor in valleys such as this where DDT and related compounds have been found to be cumulative and have been virtually banned from apricots following early jacket sprays.

Despite its high control of codling moth and tortrix in apricots, parathion still is expected to give way to D D T since the latter compound is considerably less expensive.

For red spider control with bud moth spray, however, it has proved almost indispensable as the only chemical that has successfully done the job. It also has proved a success in mealy bug control in pears. As an aphicide for walnuts, valley growers in large numbers turned to it during the cool weather accompanying their first nicotine sprays and found parathion more effective.

Parathion is the product of a search, stimulated by the discovery of DDT early in the war, for organic insecticides of even greater potency. DDT attained wide recognition for its outstanding insecticidal properties, but it was soon found to have limitations.

Although DDT has a low order of toxicity for warm-blooded animals and a remarkably high toxicity for house flies, mosquitoes and other insects, it also kills certain insects which are natural enemies of others and does not affect some that must be controlled. For instance, it has no effect on the red spider mite, although it controls codling moth.

Parathion was discovered in Germany during the war as diethylnitrophenyl thiophosphate. The U. S. Pest control committee abbreviated the chemical designation to parathion. Also developed there along with it was hexaethyl tetraphosphate, known as Bladan. Tetraethyl pyrophosphate, the active toxic ingredient in HETP was the product of work at the University of Chicago.

ACHIMENES -- HOW TO GROW THEM SUCCESSFULLY

Ethel Houdyshel, Calif.

Achimenes is from the Greek word "cheimaino" meaning to suffer from cold. Europeans call them "stove plants," which means "greenhouse plants." Both these names tell you they like warmth. I like the name Cupid's Bower better than Monkey Face, if you must call them by a common name They are native to tropical America. House or greenhouse culture is best, but they can be grown in the shade garden in warm weather but must never become dry as it may be fatal. They also need plenty of plant food, especially if grown in pure leaf mold as I like to grow them.

More than one hundred years ago, old world gardeners and plant breeders were carefully selecting and hybridizing Achimenes, using material that originally came from America. At one time they were very popular here but interest seemed to die. However, interest has been increasing rapidly the past few years and they have fast become popular again. There was little written about Achimenes formerly, but now one more often finds them discussed in flower magazines and books; and as gardeners learn about the charm and loveliness of this fascinating group, more of them will want to try them and will add them to their collections.

Years ago, the small red-flowered types (Coccinea section) were frequently seen, but modern evolution has proceeded from the broad-flowered purple species. The color range is pure white to deep purple with many shades of orange, red, crimson, pink, blue, yellow, and variegated. Some of the best species are Achimenes longiflora, purplish blue; A. longiflora var. alba maxima (known in the trade as just Maxima) best white kind; A. Patens var. major, a large flower of purplish rose; A. pendunculata, orange; and of course all the new hybrids being introduced now as named varieties are a must have. The largest flowers are found in the above group. In the Grandiflora group the tubercles (or "little tubers") are clustered; while in the Longiflora group the tubercles are pear-shaped bodies, growing on the ends of root-like rhizomes. The Coccinea and Hirsuta groups are late bloomers.

Achimenes should be started in March or April in a warm room. They may be started in boxes about 3 inches deep using one inch in the bottom of some material that will act as drainage, then about one inch of a light mixture of leaf mold or peat and sand to start them in, spreading the tubercles over the top of this, then covering with about ½ inch of the same mixture. Keep moist. Have temperature 60° to 65°. When 2 inches high, they should be lifted from the boxes with the material that is attached to the roots and potted up into 5 or 6 inch pots or fern pans -- 6 to 12 plants may be planted to a pot. The material used for this potting should be rich in humus and of a very open porous nature, so as to provide free access of air to the roots and at the same time allow any excess of water to pass away freely. About ⅓ of the pot should be filled with drainage material. They are shallow rooting so do not need deep pots. I like pure leaf mold (coarse) but you can use ⅓ leaf mold, ⅓ sand, and ⅓ loam. By starting before potting you will have all the plants in one pot of the same growth making an even display. However you can start them right in the pot or pan in which you intend to grow them, if you prefer. That is the way I start them, for lack of time. When the plants are about 6 or 8 inches high, you should start regular feeding. We use Spoonit. After they start blooming, they may be put in a somewhat drier part of greenhouse or garden, where the temperature is about 50° or above. They like top shade and plenty of light and air. Never let the plants dry out. Feeding should continue until plants show signs of exhaustion after flowering.

When through blooming, they should be allowed to die back gradually withholding water. When completely dormant, they can either be kept dry right in the pot or lifted and stored in dry sand, moss, or vermiculite. Store in a warm place never below 50° to 60°.

The tiny catkin-like tubercles multiply very rapidly, and by the end of the first year, you will have many more for additional pots the next season. Some varieties are very slender while others are short and pear shape. You don't need to worry if one becomes broken as each little piece will grow. In fact if you want to multiply them in a hurry break or cut them

up, but not in too small pieces or they will not bloom the first year. There are unlimited possibilities for the hybridizers in this field of plant breeding.

They are lovely in hanging baskets, and all but a very few can be grown in wire baskets. If wanted in baskets, line the basket with damp moss, add a small amount of the soil mixture in the bottom, place the tubercles with the eye toward the moss about 2 inches apart, around the basket, cover with about two inches of soil mixture, and continue until the basket is filled. Plant the top surface with more tubercles, being sure to have the outer edges of the soil higher than the center, this way it will hold water when watering the plants.

Achimenes start easily in moist soil in a warm room or greenhouse. They do not do much if kept as low as 50°. They are of easiest culture if a few requirements are given them.

Naegelias are closely related to the Achimenes, as are also the Isolomas. They have been developed by hybridization of species and by crossing with Isoloma, Achimenes and related plants. These are considered as some of the finest pot plants, even rivaling Rex Begonias and Fancy Leaf Caladiums.

Leaves of Naegelias are large, heart shaped, of rich green, mottled and veined with rich chocolate brown. Leaves and stems are covered with velvety hairs which appear green from one angle, red from another. In late summer, large clusters of tubular flowers develop from the arches of the upper leaves in shades of red, yellow and orange, heavily spotted inside the tube. A number of flowers are open at once and last a long time. They often bloom at Thanksgiving or even as late as Christmas.

The tubercles resemble Achimenes but are more like pine cones. They should be potted singly in 4 or 5 inch pots as soon as tubercles are received, in light rich compost containing leaf mold, peatmoss or vermiculite, but no manure. Store pots where free from frost until March or April when temperature should be between 50° and 60° at night. This could be the window garden, basement, or greenhouse, which should provide the right temperature to maintain early growth. Water slightly until good growth has been made, then a little manure water or Spoonit may be used. Keep moist while in full growth. Summer temperature will keep them growing, but in fall, move them in to a temperature not below 50° for extended bloom. When leaves start to yellow, gradually withhold water, after cutting the plant back, store in the pot in frost free place. Never let soil become entirely dry, nor should they ever be dug and stored dry. Don't disturb until spring when they may be repotted.

Isoloma (Tydaea). Culture the same as Achimenes. Propogated from division of tubers, cutting from seed.

Streptocarpus (Cape Primrose). Native to South Africa and Madagascar. They thrive in cool greenhouse and are of easy cultivation. Seeds planted in February to March should bloom in fall or winter. Propagated also by leaf cutting and division.

Gloxinias are natives of Brazil, a warm tropical climate, which gives a key to their culture. Probably most failures result from trying to start them or grow them in cold rooms. They are ideal plants for your greenhouse or a warm room where you grow the African Violets. They are one of the most popular members of the Gesneriaceae family. They require more light than Saintpaulias. They should never have water in the heart of the plant. None of the above plants like water on their foliage in the warm part of the day.

Episcias are also from Tropical America. They are grown in pots or hanging baskets, and propagated by cuttings or division.

All the plants that I have discussed are members of the Gesneria family or Gesneriaceae and are relatives of Achimenes. There are many more, but these, along with Saintpaulias and Gloxinias, are the most ornamental and valuable. The true Gesneria are now referred to other genera. Thus Gesneria cardinalis is now Corytholoma cardinalis. The name is more outstanding than the plant, though a few do grow them in pots, and naturally collectors of Gesneriaceae will want a plant.

It should be mentioned that the plants we call Gloxinias really do not belong to that genus but are Sinningias. Early botanists made an error and the name Gloxinia will probably forever be the popular name applied to Sinningia hybrids.

All these are relatives of Achimenes, and therefore of Saintpaulias.

VIOLETS

God made our lovely violets
They grew wild, you know,
In a far off country,
Where there is no ice and snow —
But one day, some one found them,
Brought them back across the sea —
Watered, cared for and petted them
All — for you and me.

Clara Atwood

A Chlorox plant now in good condition after treatment

Clorox Treatment

Lottie Bowman, Tenn.

I thought that my plant Commander (Commodore) had nematodes as there were large knots on the roots. The foliage was soft and hanging over the side of the pot—even the center crown leaves were soft. It was really sick looking! I decided to use the Clorox method. This is: 2 teaspoons of Clorox to 1 quart of warm water.

I gave this plant nothing but Clorox water for six weeks, and a weekly bath in the solution. After this period of time, it began showing signs of growth. In a short while the plant was very pretty, and it has grown and bloomed freely ever since. There is no sign of nematodes, and it has good roots.

The second growth or new foliage was entirely different from the original plant. It has heavy dark green leaves slightly scalloped—more on the duPont type. Blossoms are the same size and color and this plant has never stopped blooming even when sick, even though the blossoms got very small. This plant so far has not propagated. I think this is because I used Clorox over a longer period of time, but other plants have not been affected.

Since my experience with this plant, I have used Clorox on other plants, that I thought had nematodes and saved them. Ever three to four weeks I give my plants the Clorox bath. This keeps plants clean and makes beautiful foliage. I am very careful about bright light on the plants for a day or two after the plants have had a bath. I do not use Clorox on small plants; they just can't take even a mild solution. Since using Clorox, I have not had any diseased plants. I think it discourages diseases, mites, worms, etc. The only method I use for sterilizing soil is to pour boiling Clorox water over it and let it drain and I am now using rotted manure, which is a nematode breeder.

Aletha Hamilton's Planters

An oblong Plant Container with a combination of African violets and grape ivy. This planter was designed to fit on narrow window sills, and also to be used as a centerpiece.

Aletha Hamilton's line of attractive planters is designed to harmonize with home surroundings.

A recent letter from Mrs. Hamilton gave the following interesting details: "I am enclosing one of our circulars, feeling that you might be interested in seeing how our line has grown, knowing as you do that a relatively short time ago we started out with only the round Plant Grower. This was received so enthusiastically that we decided to really go into business making attractive plant containers that are also horticulturally sound. We have received many letters from customers placing reorders and telling us how much they like the containers. It has really been very gratifying. As you know, these Plant Containers came into being because, first of all, I wanted some attractive containers for my own use, and then I found, while lecturing and writing for garden club groups, that there was a great demand for this kind of container."

African Violets *GO TO CHURCH*

Alma H. Rolfe, Mich.

Since 1940, I have been Secretary of the Strathmoor Methodist Church of Detroit, Michigan. Last fall, we moved into our new $40,000.00 edifice on Schoolcraft Road. Members and visitors alike claim it to be one of the most beautiful churches they have ever entered. This church of today is our Sanctuary Unit only, the educational and recreational units to be built later.

Being African violet-minded, I could not help but visualize how beautiful these marble window sills would be adorned with African violets. For awhile, I hesitated, knowing how meticulous our officials and congregation have been as to any adornments other than those planned and placed by the architect himself. Finally, I brought some violets into my own office, feeling that surely I could plan the adornments of my own domain. One day the architect chanced to come in to use my telephone. On the window sill, near the phone, Double Neptune and Gorgeous were dripping with blooms. In a manlike fashion, he remarked about their beauty and the fact that his wife could not coax her's to bloom. We conversed a moment about some of the essential needs of violets, such as use of rain water, etc. It was not long after that, that I dared to ask timidly if I might place two very large violets in the Tower Entrance, which is the main entrance to the building. He gladly gave his permission. After that, I became bolder gradually until now I have twenty-five scattered here and there throughout the building -- two very large Red Kings in the north windows on the west stairway, six different varieties in our Upper East Room north windows, three in the Sacristy, three in another room off from the Chancel, several in hallways, but none, of course in the nave.

Several reasons have prompted me to bring my violets to church. If anything bespeaks the wisdom and miraculous powers of our Maker, surely these violets do that very thing, so why shouldn't the church be a suitable place for them to dwell? If they say as much to everyone as they say to me, all who behold them must also sense their message. The other day one of our older members came to the office, bringing with her a friend, explaining that she brought this friend for one sole purpose -- just to see my violets.

Another reason I brought my violets to church was that I coveted for them the light possibilities that these windows with diffused light had to offer. I could not possibly, in my home, offer them such a treat.

I have over two hundred plants in different stages of development. I believe my collection represents about fifty-two varieties.

I attribute much of my pleasure with violets to my careful perusal of the African Violet Magazine, which I read over and over. I am grateful for the contacts I have been able to make through this magazine. In this manner, I learned of the Atlas Asbestos Company and have used yards of their Glaswick. I use Glaswick for my plants in all stages of their development. Since Glaswick is not manufactured in a size small enough for my very young ones, I find it convenient to separate the larger wick, thereby producing fine wicks for the very smallest plants. I believe failure to raise violets centers mostly in the extent to which they receive water. I consider Glaswick a safe indicator. I do not even find it necessary to check my plants more than twice a week as to water content. When the wick is dry, I water them. If it is even damp, they should not receive water.

Other contacts made through your magazine that have helped me include the Harmon Nursery of Ohio, Fischers in Linwood, N. J., McFarlands in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Frentzen Floral Gardens, as well as the Hyponex Chemical Company. I enjoy the Question Box. It is interesting to note that others may face problems similar to mine. In the June issue, the article "Can African Violets Summer Out of Doors" interested me because I move mine out around Memorial Day where they remain until Labor Day. I am fortunate in having a nook on my porch which has north and east exposure to which my plants seem to adapt themselves in a very satisfactory manner.

After all is said and done, I believe raising African violets provides the most interesting phases of any hobby a person could possibly have. My friends do not cease to wonder why -- in addition to my work as Secretary of this church -- I ever undertake such a laborious hobby as raising violets. What they do not understand is that this provides my relaxation -- this dealing with soil, sand, peat moss, vermiculite, Glaswick, labels, Hyponex, rain water, etc. To me, this is fun!

But Nobody . . . .

HATES VIOLETS

By Tunia (Helen Pochurek), Ohio

Do you dislike certain flowers or do you love 'em all? Just think a bit and I am sure that you will find one at least that you can not get enthused over. If you will go back to your early childhood, I believe you will find the answer to that dislike. One group recently got together and discussed the subject.

There was one member who will have nothing to do with daisies. They brought back memories of an irate neighbor's tongue lashing she had received as a small child, when she walked along the flower border and child-like, caught each daisy between her fingers and yanked it off the stalk. There was another who dislikes hydrangeas, she remembered that at the time of a small brother's burial, huge trusses of hydrangeas bloomed on the adjoining graves.

My good friend, Emily Hodan, joins my husband in a mutual dislike of zinnias. In our home, each Spring the same argument arises - - - are you going to plant those pesky things again? (I always do!) My own pet peeve among flowers is that tall, rangy, yellow perennial — Golden Glow. I am wondering what the association is — can it be, because they grew along the back fence and shed, where as a small child, I was terrified by the 'Indians' that participated in the yearly medicine show? They held their show on the lot to the rear of ours, and used our shed to change costumes in.

On the other hand, do you adore red roses? Maybe it's because your first corsage happened to be of red roses. The faint odor of verbena brought back memories to Jean Kopac — it reminded her of an old friend's garden. Mignonette is a favorite of mine, even tho' it is rarely p'anted anymore. Memories of my favorite Aunt and her Victorian parlor, where a huge bouquet was placed on the marble top table. Today, we would call it a mass arrangement, but no matter what else that bouquet contained, Mignonette's sweet scent always perfumed the air.

Surprising enough, several people have spoken to me of being allergic to African violets. Can it be so? The dear little things would, seemingly, not hurt a soul. It is the pollen of plants that usually does the damage and, if the pollen sac is not ruptured, how can the little dears be offensive? Can it be that the fine dust that may collect on the hairs of the plant is the offender? The husband of a collector friend says they definitely irritate him and cause him to sneeze whenever he gets close to them. So - - - they are placed in a room that he will never enter. Poor hapless violets - - - to be treated to such a fate.

Just about everyone I know has a preference in violets. So many prefer the 'girls' to all others. Some like the Supremes and duPonts best. Men usually like any violet, just so it's purple. Lena McKay of our club is especially fond of white varieties and well she may be, for she grows them to perfection. Camie Conant will choose a plant with interesting foliage - - - then ask, what color is it? It must have a lovely dark, quilted or netted leaf or she doesn't want it. Me - - - why, I just love them all!

TODAY . . . MISS VIOLET PAULIA

I interviewed Miss Paulia
On Monday . . . and she told
About her lovely wardrobe packed
Away in budding fold.

On Tuesday . . . I could hardly wait . . .
The folds had neatly spread
So tiny bits of purple sheen
Could panel through, instead.

By Wednesday . . . clustered petals peeked
Above her leafy stock;
Then strutted out in gay design
Of gorgeous velvet frock.

On Thursday . . . bright-eyed Violet
CROWNED QUEEN OF PERFECTNESS
Stood sun-jeweled, robed in unveiled charm
And fragile loveliness.

Today . . . I see beyond the bud;
Beyond the bloom. Content . . .
Miss Paulia's own heart holds fast
The Holy Sacrament.

Grace M. Hartley, S. D.

Blue Boy's Life

Harriett Reed Clemo, Iowa

About fifteen years ago I bought my first violet at a greenhouse where they told me to keep it "always wet."

Of course, it died of crownrot. I definitely concluded "always wet" was not the correct way to grow violets.

Later, I started three leaves of Blue Boy Improved in water; all rooted and prospered when moved to a two inch pot of sand.

When repotted in a three inch pot, they began blooming and have bloomed continually ever since, -- in fact, are never without blooms.

About twice a year, each develops a show such as you see in this picture with fifty or more blooms displayed.

Those three plants are over twelve years old.

For several years they sat in a north window of my house, where it was not unusual for strangers to stop, even coming into the yard to admire the violets, often coming to my door and asking for a closer study of those plants, whose blooms often measured two inches across.

I used common, but good black garden soil and rotted cow fertilizer (not tea) and watered from the top, wetting all the plant, using luke warm water and watering sparingly every day.

I knew nothing at that time of the various methods proclaimed so broadly today. However, since trying most of them, I have returned to the simple method I used at the beginning.

I am caring for over eight-hundred extremely healthy violets in a small solarium, heated with gas in a small heater which often goes out filling the place with gas fumes, which the violets seem not to notice.

I am using artificially softened water, which I consider harmful.

I find the African violet much simpler to grow than any other plant or weed I have ever tried to grow!

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MRS. W. H. ODOM
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Soil Sterilization With Steam

Beatrice Fortney, Ohio

Leaving the 1949 Convention with the cardinal commandment, "Thou shalt sterilize thy soil," ringing in my ears, I spent much of the train ride home searching for an easy but effective way to do it. Suddenly the idea flashed; I put everything else in my pressure canner, why not soil?

The canner is a 14 quart size. The wire rack is left in the bottom and about one-half inch of water added. Into this I place a discarded milk pail (12 qts.) full of soil mixture, adjust the top and set on the stove. When steam exhausts, the vent is closed and the soil processed at 15 pounds pressure for one hour.

My soil formula is rather elastic but near these proportions:

3 parts good garden soil
2 parts sand
1 part peat or leaf mold
1 part compost
A little charcoal
A sprinkling of vermiculite

When this is thoroughly mixed, it feels "spongy to the touch. I usually char a piece of oak and reduce it to pieces the size of peas for this purpose. No water is added to the soil before it is sterilized and the steam only keeps it moist. It may be used for potting as soon as it cools to room temperature.

Smaller amounts of soil could be done in suitable sized cans placed in a four or six quart cooker. Thirty minutes would be sufficient time for processing. There is some order with this method but since it is quickly done, this unpleasant feature is reduced to a minimum.

Many who follow the principles of organic gardening will discourage sterilization of soil, believing vital elements to be destroyed by it. But one who has struggled through a seige with cyclamen mite doesn't invite a bout with nematodes.

Mrs. Fortney with some of her collection which she grows in a south window. Muslin glass shades regulate the amount of light and give protection from the sun when needed.

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LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

QUESTIONS

Is soot deposited in a chimney by an oil-burning heater of any benefit to African violets?

What is meant by ever-sporting Fantasy, mentioned in article in June magazine, page 42?

Helen L. McGill, Mich.

Where can I get directions for pollinating my violets? Would like to experiment but don't know where to get the information.

Louise Kline, Pa.

I would like the opinion of some of the African violet members as to the cause of multiple crowns. I think it is caused by a root injury or formation. My reason is that I had crown rot or some disorder on several plants which I had to repot, and disturb the whole plants. When they started to grow, they developed multiple crowns.

Edna M. Agnew, N. Y.

I have a number of plants coming into bloom, grown from seeds. It would be interesting to carry them two or three generations. How do you know which plants of one generation to use or pollinate? Should they be selfed or crossed?

Emily Hartman, Mo.

How can plants be kept fairly small and still have lots of blooms? Does Hyponex primarily affect the growth of the foliage or size and number of blooms? Will insufficient light make plants stop blooming and develop long stems?

Mrs. Hugh C. McInally, Mich.

Some time ago I purchased a violet marked "Mottled Hybrid." The leaves are large, egg shaped and get all sorts and shapes of white markings on them -- look like green marble. Blossom is very large and white with lavender edge. I have never seen such a plant described in the magazine. It is so lovely. I wish someone could tell me the name of it.

Mrs. Don Otto, Iowa

On February 3rd I started an African violet leaf and the first blossom opened July 3rd. There are three good sized plants full of blooms and buds in a 2½ inch pot with mother leaf still attached. Is this unusual, and do you know what the time record is for an amateur raising blooming plants from a leaf? I started the leaf in water in the east window. As soon as the little plants started I put them in soil taken from an old hot bed. I added a little sand, peat moss, and a few wood ashes. I put the pot in the north window with a glass over it. It grew very fast and in no time I discovered buds.

Frances Ross, Ohio

I have a white violet which is producing a plant at the end of a bloom stem where the blossoms came. It is now two and one half inches across and has a second set of leaves. What should I do to get the plant to mature? Is there such a thing as a trailing violet and if so, where do the plants form?

Mrs. F. G. Backstrom, Nebr.

Where can I buy Carolyn Rector's book on African violets? They do not have it here in the book stores.

I have six S. grotei plants growing nicely but I do not know how to proceed as they lengthen out. Will they require a larger pot than the regular ones as they grow longer? Should I let the side shoots alone or pick them out as one does on other violets?

Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

Could you tell me why my violets do not blossom? I have twenty-five healthy plants with beautiful foliage but they don't blossom. I feed them Hyponex.

Mrs. Bruce Fineout, Mich.

I have a plant grown from a leaf from a Blue du Pont. This plant is full of blooms and one of the best reds I have. The leaves are like the Blue du Pont but much prettier and notched. Is there a Red du Pont?

Amy Rhodes, B. C. Canada

Since several of my friends and I have received mite infested plants from highly recommended and supposedly reliable dealers, I have decided the only safe thing to use is sodium selenate. My collection of about 300 plants with about 1500 small ones coming on for sale, is much too large to take chances of mite infestation. Also reading in the magazine convinces me sprays are not a complete cure, and that dips are not either.

But since I also read that "food plants should not be planted in soils containing sodium selenate" etc., I am wondering how to advise my customers. What if a baby or a pup should pick up a blossom or leaf from a sodium selenate treated plant and chew it up -- what would happen? I would appreciate the opinion of readers experienced in the use of sodium selenate.

Alice Tilton Thorne, Juneau, Alaska

Please tell me what makes the violet leaves curl under and hang over the rim of the pot?

Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

ANSWERS

Care of S. grotei

To Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

There isn't any difference in the actual growing culture of the S. grotei from that of the varieties but there is a problem as you suggest in training the plants to best advantage. We have had them in most every type of pot and conceivable method of supporting devices. I believe the most attractive planting to date was five or six plants set in a twelve inch hanging basket type pot. It had three holes in the pot edge and wires thru these holes held the pot from ceiling. We let the plant grow without pruning or nipping of suckers or crown leaves. The procumbent stems fell over the sides of the pot and some were held erect by the wires. This planting was pictured in some of the magazines and was truly a beautiful thing. I have never tried to keep all the suckers removed as a few left along the stem fills in and rounds out the appearance. I think about the best way to handle one plant is to support it by tying to a stick. However, a three inch pot is inclined to be top heavy as you suggest. We have left the plants as they grow, run all around and among and over rosette type plants. Of course, as S. grotei leaves get older, they fade and curl but as they are cut off a sucker will usually sprout and fill in the lower gaps. By pinching out crown the plant will sucker all over even at flower stalks where a flower stem has been pinched off, that is, leaving the flower stalk but pinching the single flower stem.

S. grotei has two cultural advantages over varieties. It will pack well as the petioles are more or less wiry, not brittle, and the leaf blades and foliage are not so hairy but slick, and will take spray without damage or dis-coloring to the foliage. If given a lot of light the internodes are shorter but the leaves tend to fade from strong light. Less light will lengthen the

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TOPPING HILL CRAFT

Rush, N. Y.

plant but flowering will be reduced. After well established it will stand considerable feeding if light is good, and foliage will get luxuriant. Leaf blades will be as much as four inches across and petioles up to ten inches long.

Harvey Cox, Calif.

Soot from Oil Burner

To Helen L. McGill, Mich.

In my opinion the soot from an oil burner would not be good for your plants. Soot from a coal burner is good as it intensifies the colors.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Mottled Leaves

To Mrs. Don Otto, Iowa

No doubt your violet is one of the thousands of unnamed seedlings that Ulery has developed. It might be a variegated one. Often they do not become white but will be two shades of green in the same leaf.

Helen Pochurek, Ohio

Flower Drop After Watering

To Harry Gensemer, Ill.

I have heard from Mrs. C. De Greve who some time ago wrote in about flower drop. She says she has solved the problem by spraying her violets twice a week with a fine mist spray, using warm water. This created a higher humidity. Like Mrs. De Greve's plants, my blossoms would stay on as long as the plant was dry but just as soon as I watered them even to the wilting stage, they'd all fall off. I've tried spraying mine with a fine mist just before watering and not one blossom fell off so it did the trick and solved our problem.

Mrs. Geo. R. Gaines, Ill.

Artificial Gas Effecting Blossoms

To Mrs. Newton Stephens, Iowa

We are in the gas business and while we use natural gas in our town, I have friends in the surrounding country who use artificial gas, and find that in all cases where flowers refuse to bloom due to use of gas of any kind they are getting fumes from their gas. Open flame burners will cause this as will an unvented oven or burner that is not adjusted properly. Flowers and canaries will react to the fumes where the human will get accustomed to it and notice it very little. However, if my flowers failed to bloom and I thought perhaps it was the gas, I would immediately have some one look for an improperly adjusted burner, an unvented opening or a leak. I have flowers blooming all winter, including African violets, and have no trouble. We use gas for heating, cooking, water heating and refrigeration.

Elsie M. Laswell, Kans.

Leaves on Broken Stems

To Katherine Lavell, Wis.

Sometimes it happens that plants sprout all over a plant as you describe, It may result from an injury to the leaves or stem. Sometimes it follows those injuries which all good violet growers hope to avoid -- those produced by mites or other insects, and even frost injuries when temperature gets too low. Be suspicious first of bugs. If you are convinced there aren't any, congratulate yourself on having something freakish to gloat over.

Helen McGill, Mich.

Use of Sodium Selenate

To Col. C. K. Darling, Wyo.

I find it best to use sodium selenate on a damp plant. Water your plant one day and use sodium selenate the next day. In some cases plants will wilt slightly after a sodium selenate application but they revive in a few days. It is best to keep the treated plants away from strong sunlight for a couple of days after application.

As to having numerous seed pods on a plant. I do not think it does any harm. Actually, propagation is one of a plant's purposes in life.

R. L. Rannie, Ont., Canada

Eversporting Fantasy

To Helen McGill, Mich.

Eversporting in the broadest sense means that Fantasy blossoms on the same plant will be different from each other and there is no way to foretell what the next bloom will be like.

In leaf propagation it will be found there is no set pattern to production of purple streaks and dots in the blossoms on the one hand nor to mutation into blues or pinks on the other. As a matter of fact, since we introduced Fantasy in 1949, we have been successful thru continuous re-selection to produce several outstanding strains, the best of which are Pink Fantasy, a real deep pink with Fantasy foliage and Fantasy Supreme, immense blossoms of lavender, with intensified streaks, rays, and dashes of purple with beautiful large rounded foliage. However, these will not be available until later.

Albert Behnke, Behnke Nurseries, Md.

Drooping Leaves

To Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

I always felt the light was the cause of my violet leaves drooping around the pots. The ones growing on the low benches grow upright. I removed some of the paint at the top of my windows and they don't droop so much now. I do know that if you set the plant down and let the light come down on the plant it won't be long before the foliage raises again. It is also just the nature of some plants to have a downward foliage growth.

Maxine Wangberg, Iowa

JACQUELINE PRICE SMITH

This new member's address was lost at the time she made application for membership.

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WHOLESALE RETAIL

RICHMOND SHOW

Mrs. Werner C. Reelitz

Under the dignity of ancient trees, in historic Byrd Park, through a lane of pink and white dogwood, just putting forth buds, one approached a gleaming white building -- Memorial to the Armed Forces of World War I, in Richmond, Virginia. Keeping holy watch, high above, was the singing tower and in such quiet splendour one might anticipate the beauty awaiting within the Shrine, but could scarcely visualize it.

In this serene and hallowed place, the Richmond African Violet Society held its annual violet show on Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th of 1951.

The vista from the doorway of one huge room was breathtaking in its loveliness. As far as one could see, there was a glorious parade of violets. Pink, lavender, orchid, red, blue and purple in many tints and tones, tied together with pure white, were all blending and harmonizing in a very melody of color.

The tables were gracefully roped with green and neatly tagged so that even the newest novice might know upon which particular beauty he feasted his eyes.

There were six to eight gracious and charming hostesses on duty at all times; to protect the precious plants, to greet the visitors and to answer the many eager questions.

There were two hundred and three exceptional exhibits. Among the dear familiar varieties, there were several new ones. All were interested in and curious about the strange habits of "Saintpaulia grotei", and "Geneva Rainbow", brought to the show by the judges, created much enthusiasm.

There were two long tables devoted entirely to an extensive educational exhibit. On one table was a large basket of soil mixture with ribbons running to small containers of the ingredients; to clearly picture for the uninitiated just the things the violets really like: sand, lime, gravel, vermiculite, peat moss, charcoal, superphosphate, Hyponex Plant Food, and well rotted cow manure.

There were plants too upon this demonstration table, and containers: plastics with wicks, vermiculite pots, and the lovely brass "Tri-Color" Jardiniere awarded as prizes.

The second educational table attracted many people, who had innumerable questions to ask. Here were seedlings of all ages, from very tiny babies up to beautiful blooming plants. One shy plant was trying to tuck its seed pod under a leaf. There was a collection of the minute African Violet seed, and there was a blooming plant, growing in water and fed with Hyponex. Here also was a plant growing in vermiculite. There were rooted leaves in water, and leaves sprouting young plants, growing in potted soil. Suckers were displayed, which had been taken from mother plants and rooted in water.

There was a small but amazing display by the Juniors. Some of the mature blooming plants exhibited in this group would put most would-be violet growers to shame.

The adults vied with each other in the class for artistic display and the results were lovely indeed.

A class for smallest blooming plants was really surprising. It was thrilling to see these small youngsters so courageously and efficiently bearing bloom.

In another room a plant sale was held, and plants of every size, from leaves and rooted leaves to blooming plants in four inch pots, of many named varieties, were offered to the enthralled public.

There were over seven hundred visitors, some from other states, including Arizona, West Virginia and Florida.

Prizes were awarded the "blue ribbon" winners. "Bi-Color", exhibited by Mrs. T. J. Taylor of Chesterfield Gardens, was judged the best plant in the show.

A ballot box was placed at the front door so that visitors might express their opinions. "Red King" proved the most popular and "Blue Jane", a plant with multiple crowns, was voted second best.

The Judges were Mrs. L. R. Hoy, Jr., of Arlington, Virginia, President of the Metropolitan African Violet Club, and Mrs. W. O. Husted, of Washington, D. C.

Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips was Show Chairman and Mrs. Joe T. Mizell the Co-chairman.

Kodachrome slides were made and will be shown at the regular meeting in October.

Altogether this was a triumphant and beautiful show and many people stated it was a revelation to the people of Richmond, for most had no idea of the unlimited possibilities of varieties in the African Violet. If one can judge by the interested inquiries which have followed the show, many converts were made.

The Richmond African Violet Society is flourishing with a membership of sixty-two. It is anticipating a new and fruitful phase of work and fellowship, under the leadership of the officers elected for 1951 and 1952, as follows:

President,	Mrs. George Ross
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. H. Flippin
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Fred Kidd
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. W. G. Roach
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Kenneth Lord
Treasurer,	Mrs. Joe T. Mizell

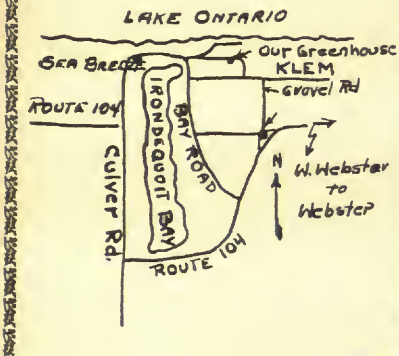
Mrs. George Ross, the President, appointed the Chairmen of Committees, as follows:—

Telephone,	Mrs. H. C. Smith
Membership,	Mrs. A. N. Tuttle
Hostess,	Mrs. John T. Pangola
Entertainment,	Mrs. D. J. Stradling
Violet Show,	Mrs. Gibson C. Phillips
Historian,	Mrs. G. F. Pfitzner
Publicity,	Mrs. W. L. Mason
Horticulture,	Mrs. William J. Gouldin

"Merry Christmas"

To All

From Gent's



JOHN R. GENT

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2 MILES BEYOND SEA BREEZE

Follow Precautions in . . . using PHOSPHATE SPRAYS

Carrol K. Hurd, Ranch Home and Garden section of the San Jose Mercury-News.

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Accidents last year as the result of careless use of organic phosphate pesticide compounds led to several deaths and have led to special warnings to spray rig operators when using these materials.

The precautions apply to parathion, tetraethyl-pyrophosphate (TEPP), and hexaethyl-tetraphosphate (HETP) and are issued by Federal, State and County officials.

Growers are urged to heed the warnings under all conditions. They are as follows:

1. The most important precaution to observe in handling parathion is to avoid breathing the wettable powder while opening the bags and introducing it into the spray tank, and to avoid inhaling the spray mist during operations. Work to the windward. While handling the wettable powder, and when spraying or entering sprayed areas, wear a respirator.

2. Wash hands, arms and face after handling parathion and before eating or smoking.

3. If you are working under conditions involving considerable spray drift or dust, wear protective covering. A light plastic raincoat gives good protection. Protection may also be provided by using a cellophane sheet—a hole large enough for the head is cut in the center of the sheet and it is then simply draped over the shoulders. Wear a washable rubber or plastic rain hat.

4. Never handle parathion wettable powder with the bare hands. If you must handle the powder with the hands, wear natural rubber gloves—never synthetic rubber, leather or cloth gloves. The same precautions apply to the use of parathion dusts.

5. Atropine is the emergency antidote for parathion poisoning. Atropine is obtainable only on a doctor's prescription. The doctors in your neighborhood should be informed regarding the symptoms of parathion poisoning and the treatment therefor. Consult your doctor and arrange with him for a prescription of atropine grains 1/120 (0.5) mg.) to be kept on hand for emergency use. Never take atropine or any similar drug until after warning symptoms appear. The symptoms of parathion poisoning include headache, blurred vision, weakness, nausea, cramps, diarrhea and discomfort in the chest. If you feel any of these symptoms while spraying with parathion, quit spraying, take two atropine tablets at once and go to a doctor. Do not spray again with parathion or other organic phosphate insecticides until your doctor has examined a blood sample for parathion effect. When you go back to the job be sure to observe all the precautions outlined. In no cases give morphine to person affected.

NEVER GIVE UP

Is collecting African Violets a curse?
A hobby, I'm sure, but what is worse
Than to get the fever that can't be cured.
New names, new plants, new colors, and
Should I start them in water, peat, or sand?
Do you prefer windows North, East, or West?

Which size pots do you like best?
First came blue, then pink, white, and red.
No yellow? But there's Lavender-Pink instead.

Then Orchid and Bi-Color, a beauty, too,
Oh dear, what am I to do?
I wouldn't have minded so much I think
Until one day my heart did sink.
For there in the center of a Pink Beauty
Was evidence I had shirked my duty.
First I sprayed them, then I dusted
I'd get that Cyclamen Mite if I busted.
My determination knew no bounds
'Twas certain death for those pesky hounds.
Today it's quite a different story
I have 95 plants less, by gory.
Maybe collecting Violets is a curse
But there are many things that can be worse.
Empty tables, empty shelves—instead
I'd rather see their pretty heads
Swaying so gracefully to and fro!
Bye now! Violet chasing I must go.

(This poem was written by Mrs. John Miller of the Springfield, Mo. African Violet Sociey, after an experience with Cyclamen Mite. We hope it will be an encouragement to anyone else who might have had the same experience.)

VIOLET TOWN U. S. A.

Mary Alice Herman, Mo.

I have a wonderful little town next door to me. It's a violet town and the members are just as interesting as any people I know.

Since age should come before beauty, I guess we should start with Granny Old Lace. Poor old thing, she is so small and wrinkled and so slow, but once in a while when her rheumatism isn't bothering her too much she bursts right out in bloom, and is a pleasure to all who see her.

From Granny's place, I think we should go to the country club district. Here the social set consists of the duPonts, Supremes or Amazons and some new members who just moved into town. Lady Geneva, Emperor Wilhelm and the Fringette Family. Oh yes, I almost forgot Red Waves.

The country club section is rather small because they don't have many children up there, to or three at the most, while Blue Boy and Girl down on the other side of the tracks think nothing of having nine or ten.

Now, let's leave the country club section and go down Main Street. There is Mentor's store. Since Mr. Mentor passed last year, the boys have been running it and doing a fine job. Look at the window display, — won't the ladies of the town look nice in those fancy flower pots?

Look out, here comes the Sailor Boy and Girl twins. They sure are wild ones. There's Judy and Frieda crossing the street. See how they look away from each other, — used to be the best of friends until they both fell in love with the Admiral. But he really isn't worth it! Has a girl in every port.

Let's go over to the Drug Store and have a coke and talk to Mr. Redland. He knows all the latest. "Hello, Mr. Redland, coke please. Well, what do you know that is new? Oh my, what a shame! Mr. and Mrs. Curley duPont's little 6 month old is in the hospital. Had to be operated on for crown rot. We what! Well, I am from Missouri. You gotta show me." Says we are going to have a new family move into town, and its members are yellow.

Well, we had better be going. We are on Third Avenue now. That large building on the left is the dirt mill, the largest industry in town. Next to it is the flower pot factory. The little house across the street belongs to Red Head, mother of Red Waves, though you would never know it. Since that daughter of hers hit the social register she wouldn't be seen on Third Avenue.

The yard with all the kids in it belongs to Ma and Pa Blue. Look at the house, about ready to fall down. But they don't care. Sure are a happy bunch, healthy, too, drink lots of Hyponex.

Oh dear, here comes Mrs. Boles, let's get out of here. That old gossip will keep us here all night. Well, I am getting tired and know you are too, so I will say good night and hope to see you again sometime in Violet Town, where there is always something new going on.

Don't take chances with your

African Violets

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Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

Chances are that by the time you discover these minute pests it will be too late. For mealy bugs are less than one-fifth of an inch long. And the devastating cyclemen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They feed on the lower side of the leaf and frequent the junction of leaf and stalk. But they are easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray from famous Ogen Laboratories.

As Marvel Spray is an ovacide, it penetrates the waxy shells of these insidious enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send $1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Grow-ers"). 514-101 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

MARVEL Spray

HOTEL SHERMAN, *A City within a City*

On the night of October 7, 1871, the great bell in the Chicago court house yard clanged the ominous note of fire which destroyed the city, and along with it, the Sherman House.

Today a new and modern structure, a twenty-five story giant now known as the Hotel Sherman stands at Clark and Randolph Streets, offering its thousands of yearly visitors virtually a "city within a city."

With a battery of more than 1,200 employees and 1,500 rooms, convention halls, private dining rooms, a two-story private dwelling house on the roof which a President of the United States opened and dedicated, visiting guests of the hotel can be "at home away from home."

Many restaurants are handy in the hotel where guests may dine in leisure or "grab a sandwich," all in the confines of one building -- with specialization and dramatization in foods, shelter and entertainment the prime aim.

Once a guest who visits Chicago by automobile parks his car in the spacious Hotel Sherman garage or arrives by cab he is "at home."

Among the many facilities available is a laundry with the most modern equipment and large enough to serve an entire city of 30,000 population; a modern eight lane bowling alley, the only hotel in Chicago having this feature; a radio in every room and television sets in each suite; a drugstore in the lobby; the coast-to-coast "Welcome Travelers" radio show broadcast daily Monday through Friday and features Tommy Bartlett; the best in service facilities; and a public relations office offering free services to guests and conventions, and dozens of other services. Enough electric power is generated by the hotel to light a city of 40,000.

The hotel's guest rooms, dining rooms, ballroom, spacious exhibition hall and restaurants are among the most modern in the country.

Only recently the Hotel Sherman completed a remodeling, redecorating and refurnishing program of all guest rooms and restaurants at a cost of more than $1,000,000.

Guest room decorations are the most modern with ebony furnishings, bronze fixtures and a trace of Chinese influence in the motif. Upholstered chairs are ebony finished with movable and washable cushions in red plastic. Bronze lamps of new and original design, never before used in hotel furnishings, lend handsomeness to the decorations.

One of the many outstanding new features is the extra large and roomy beds. Twin beds are arranged end-to-end, or located at right angles to each other, with bookcase headboards separating them to afford privacy. This idea was originated at the Hotel Sherman more than fifteen years ago by the late Ernest Byfield, president of the hotel for many years, who originated a new advertising slogan, "Twin Beds With Privacy."

A new type telephone installation on the headboards prevents wire entanglement.

All in all, the Hotel Sherman provides one of the most interesting histories of the growth of a great American institution. The history of Chicago and the growth of the Sherman is a dualism unique to America.

One can live at the Hotel Sherman in a style of the most agreeable luxury, equalling anything found anywhere, and at a modest cost.

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Planting instruction included
SHREDDED SPHAGNUM MOSS, ideal for propagating leaves 6"x12" bag tightly packed 75 cents

SUNNY ACRE FARMS
MOUNT SINAI, N. Y.

BIRD BATH ROCK GARDEN

Marie Kenny, Penna

May I tell you of my indoor Rock Garden? Who knows what others may have around the house to make a perfect setting for some of those little nameless violets, that otherwise, they may be tempted to discard.

The birds did not seem to appreciate the concrete bird bath in the yard, as there was a natural pond not too far away. So last fall it was brought into the house and filled, first, with soil and pebbles in the bottom. Then I gathered ferns and moss from the woods, adding a few suitable stones, a few sempervivums and filled all other spaces with little nameless violets.

This apparently was a good idea, for they are all growing beautifully and most ready to bloom. I am anxiously awaiting to see the different varieties in bloom among the rocks, moss and ferns.

Have you tried using aluminum foil on top of baby food jars for rooting leaves? The foil seems to stay in place better than paper.

Do you ever paint old zinc mason jar lids, to use as saucers for two inch pots? They may be painted any color to suit, and it is easy to keep small plants moist in this manner where it is not possible to use larger saucers.

AFRICAN VIOLET SEED —

from many crosses of many varieties, $1.00 for approx. 300 seeds. Planting instructions included. If interested in Extra Special Crosses, $3.00 a pkg. Send for list.

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WHOLESALE **RETAIL**

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS

309 LAKE AVE. **PITMAN, N. J.**

An Experiment with Fluorescent Lights

Pearl Arnold, Tenn.

First, let me say that I am an amateur when it comes to raising African violets. But I love them! I have read everything that I could find on growing them. Incidentally, in my ignorance, it seems to me that about every article gave different growing instructions. Though I always manage to get something helpful from anything I read or hear about them.

In the Autumn of 1949, Alma Wright (who needs no introduction to African violet fans) gave a talk in my city. Included in her helpful information on African violets, was the fact that African violets can be grown in basements under fluorescent lights. That set me off! I studied the article by Mrs. Stillwell that came out in the African Violet Magazine about the same time. I asked plant experts questions on the subject and got nothing but discouragement! I purchased first an ordinary 20 watt fluorescent utility fixture with two white bulbs in it. My husband hung the lights three feet above the table for the African violets. It was plugged into an extension cord that was run through a small hole in the floor and the cord was plugged into an outlet upstairs on a little back porch, so I did not have to go down into the basement each time I turned the lights on and off. I plug the cord in at 7 a. m. and pull it off at 9 p. m. every day—unless I forget it for short periods. This I seldom do, though a time or two, I have left in on all night, with no noticeable results.

I usually set the plants on tall juice cans which naturally bring them nearer the lights, but those on the table do quite well.

I put very small plants under the lights at first. They grew rapidly and began to bloom in a few months. There are not so many blossoms as on those grown in daylight exposure but the blooms are much larger—about all of them look like Supremes. The leaves on those grown under the lights in the basement are far superior in every way.

Droopy plants will often perk up in a couple of weeks when placed under the lights in the basement. Several with crown rot were cut off at the dirt line and re-rooted in shallow bowls of water. Some even bloomed in the water before I got them back into the dirt. It is an ideal place to put re-potted plants until they get over the shock of change.

I think the secret of the healthy growth is the even temperature and more moist air of the basement.

I was so pleased with my fluorescent light experiment that I have bought two 40 watt utility fixtures with the white bulbs and intend to put my 20 watt fixture on a tiny porch this winter and use it for extra light for begonias. I have never had anything in my life, for the same money (or much more), that has given me half as much pleasure and enjoyment as my fluorescent lights for my African violets.

IDEAL FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS OR OTHER HOUSE PLANTS.

Feeds water and plant food directly to roots thru Fiberglas Wick.

Water only once each 7 to 10 days. Made of Styron plastic in seven beautiful colors.

MARBLED RED, GREEN, BLUE, OR YELLOW. ALSO CLEAR IVORY, MOTTLED LAVENDER, OR BRONZE, ALL WITH BLACK BASES. Makes EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS GIFT.

4" pots, 2 for $2.15, 6 for $5.50 ppd. 5" pots for larger plants, 2 for $3.25, 6 for $8.00 ppd.

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KENNEDY SALES COMPANY

4299 Pacific Avenue

Detroit 4, Michigan

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period June 26, 1951 to October 4, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Mrs. Abbot 7-25-51
Mrs. Hazel Abbott
427 W. Perry Street
Belvidere, Illinois
"Leaves are large, curled, and crenated; of intense velvety-green bronze on upper side which seems to show through, stems are green and red and very flexible. Blossoms are blue-purple and a little crinkled."

Lovely Lady 8-6-51
E. H. Thomas
461 Bridge Road
Walnut Creek, California
"This is a seedling of unknown origin. The package of seed was secured from an eastern commercial house with no special notation regarding the grower. We raised only two plants from this entire package of seed. One of the plants was very ordinary while the other one was outstanding by the time it was in a two and one half inch pot. It is somewhat on the order of Amethyst or Lavender Lady but is is far superior to both in size of flower and size and quality of leaves."

Pink Prince 8-7-51
E. H. Thomas
461 Bridge Road
Walnut Creek, California
"Sport of Pink Beauty which was discovered in a flat of Pink Beauty which has been transplanted from rooted leaves. The leaves of the mature plants, and frequently on young plants, are outstanding; many of them have the basal margin united so that they look like green calla lilies. Leaves dark green in color, some what of the Amazon or Supreme type in texture. Flowers are large, deep pink, fully equal to the Amazon Pink. It is inclined to crop its flowers but when it does bloom it does it profusely. I think this is the best pink I have ever grown."

Fairy Dancer 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Well shaped plant with typical foliage of Mentor Boy. The blossoms of this plant are the distinctive difference, for they are a lovely light orchid, with pencil edge and rays deeper orchid, and each petal having a fluted appearance. They are carried on long stems, rather limber, so that they really dance in every chance breeze, and when in full bloom really remind one of fairy dancers."

Heartsease 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Young plant, light green, with a large white spot at the base of the heart shaped leaves. When more mature the leaves darken to a medium green, and it blooms with a lovely deep violet-blue bloom, and is a most prolific bloomer."

Royal Velvet 8-9-51
Mrs. Josephine R. Sebera
Goodrich Road
Clarence, New York
"Lovely ruffled foliage, and a true deep purple bloom, it is a distinct improvement on Purple Prince, which is of a similar color bloom in the same exposure."

Queen of Hearts 8-27-51
Mrs. Watson S. Green
541 Denise Road
Rochester 16, New York
"A very compact miniature girl-type plant with short petioles. Leaves: dark green and glossy on the top with large white splotch near petiole, light green underneath, deeply scalloped, heart shaped, Bloom: two tone orchid rising well above the plant on eight inch stem, eight in a cluster. Rather slow grower."

Curly duPont 9-20-51
Mrs. Robert L. Henry
201 East 67th Street
Kansas City 5, Missouri
"Sport of duPont Lavender Pink. The young plant is rather slow of growth, but as it matures the new leaves are curly and ruffled, making it most unusual and attractive. The rich wine blossoms become two toned and are often larger than a silver dollar. They are deeper in color, larger, and more frilly than duPont Lavender Pink."

PART II

The following applications were also received during this period. It is impossible to tell from the data submitted, whether these plants are first generation seedlings or whether they have been vegetatively propagated sufficiently (at least two times) that application for Registration can be accepted upon them. They are being published under "Committee Protest." This means that if further information discloses that the plants are first generation, hence non-registerable, that fact can be published in a separate section of a future report; but if the plants are disclosed to have been sufficiently vegetatively propagated the registrants will not have been denied the right of early publication.

Dream Girl Supreme 6-27-51
Mrs. Lulu Hastings
Florence, Indiana
"Leaves are very attractive, a rich dark green color on top and a very light green on the bottom with green veins. The foliage is unusually heavy and stiff, a true Supreme, the immense white blotch which often times extends more than a third of the length of the leaf makes it a lovely girl type leaf. The very young leaves are evenly scalloped and some what round, but as they grow they change in shape and have a large scallop (often times more than an inch in length) at the tip of the leaf with many overlapping segments along the remainder of the leaf. Some of these segments measure seven-eighths of an inch in length and join the leaf by less than

a fourth of an inch. At this stage of growth there are very distinct white spots at the base of these segments and the leaf measures about two and seven eights inches long and two inches wide. When fully matured these scallops have most all grown out forming a somewhat round leaf with even scallops except perhaps a few deeper scallops at the base. The petioles, of upright growth, are about two and one half inches long, light green with red shading. The flowers, somewhat cupped and with ruffled edge, grow well above the foliage on very sturdy five inch stems lasting over a long period of time. The blossoms, usually about six to the bloom stalk, measure one and one half inches across and are very dark velvety plum bi-color."

Fuchsia Plaid* 8-9-51

Mrs. Florence Reichman
7938 Madison Drive
St. Louis 14, Mo.

"Seedling, duPont Red x White Lady. Leaves, dark green, light green underside with some pink, red stripe on petiole. Blossoms, some single some semi-double, some marked, some have creamy white petals on the semi-doubles; overall plaid effect."

Purple Glory* 8-9-51

Mrs. Florence Reichman
7938 Madison Drive
St. Louis 14, Mo.

"Sport of Mentor Boy. Resembles Mentor Boy and Neptune. Leaves, top, dark shiny, light green at base; bottom, reddish veins very prominent; quilted when mature. Blossoms, dark purple."

Oros Candida* 8-17-51

Mrs. Frank Oros
R. D. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

"Seedling, White Lady x Unnamed White Seedling. Slightly hairy, fluted, heart shaped leaf. Pure white blossom. First prize winner at Akron Show, April 1951."

Oros Crimson* 8-17-51

Mrs. Frank Oros
R. D. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio

"Seedling, Red Head x Dubonnet. Resembles Red Head. Leaves, dark green with reddish vein, edges wavy. Maroon blossom. Blue Ribbon Winner at Akron Show, April, 1951."

Red Wing 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"A very pretty red that holds its color. A better red -- larger flower -- than the other reds so far."

Orchid Wing 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--leaves, just about same shape as Red Wing, only they are not so large nor so dark green. Flowers are same shape and very large, but are orchid in color."

Red Rave 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--small or medium plant, mature plants are just about seven inches across. Deepest dark red color. Blossoms are a little like Merkle's Red, but the plant is different -- Girl Leaf, deep green, large cream center."

Paradise 8-25-51

Mrs. Lela Reichert
3114 Charles Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"--odd and cute. The flowers look like they are looking down at one, they are odd shape also. It is a small plant, good bloomer."

Eclipse 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Seedling, Red Head x Blushing Malden. Leaf shaped like Red Head, but longer and thinner. Flowers on long stem; flowers large and stem red-colored. Color is lavender, darker than Jessie but lighter than Lavender Lady."

Pennsylvania Lavender 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Sport of duPont Lavender. Tall flower stems, very pretty foliage. Larger than America, some flowers measure two and one half inches across. Better bloomer than the duPont strain."

Rose Ellevia 9-4-51

Miss Florence E. Yocum
Muncy, Pennsylvania

"Seedling, Spooned Neptune x Rosy Blue. Spooned leaf, but not so deeply quilted as Neptune and more round like Rosy Blue. The flowers just come above the foliage but cover the whole top of the plant and are a clear rose that never fades off like Rosy Blue."

PART III

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following name reservations have been made during this period:

Blue Parasol	Little Boy Blue
Bonny Maid	Little Old Lady
Buttons and Bows	Pin Up Girl
Fairy Queen	Queen Geneva
Goddess of Love	Sandy Mac

PART IV

PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

It was announced in the June 1951 issue that all applications for registration would, in the future, have to be accompanied by a written description of the plant, which description would be published along with the application. This was demanded by Society membership, and is a service to which they are entitled.

But it has been very difficult to get applicants to submit the desired kind of description. They have been too long or too short, or failed to indicate in what ways the plant is superior, etc. Practically every description printed above has been edited, to a greater or lesser extent. Every effort has been made to preserve the registrants "description intent" in the editing process, but in several instances this was very difficult to do. The Registration Chairman is sorry if any plant has been slighted in editing the registrant's description, but will assume no responsibility therefor. The responsibility of furnishing a publishable description rests upon the applicant.

Four of the plants in Part II, those marked with an asterisk (*) were not accompanied by a written description of any kind. The Chairman composed the de-

scription from the material on the card. This is a service which will be provided just this once, the chairman will not write any descriptions in the future, and any applications for registration received which are not accompanied by descriptions will be published as Name Reservations only.

To help in preparing a plant description the following requirements should be kept in mind:

1. It must be in terms that the ordinary grower or hobbyist can understand, it need not be botanical.
2. It must be brief as possible, and must not in any case exceed two hundred words.
3. It must point out clearly and definitely in what ways the plant is superior, and if comparison can be made with a known variety the points in which the applied for plant is better should be plainly stated.
4. Excessive claims (such, for instance, as huge blossom size) should be avoided.
5. Such expressions as "Everybody who sees this plant just raves about it" or "Everybody that has seen this plant wants a leaf from it," should be avoided. Those statements may be true and may indicate that the plant is superior enough that it should be registered, but their descriptive value is nil.

And, while it is not necessarily a part of the description, the number of vegetative reproductions through which the plant has gone must be stated somewhere, either on the application, in the description, or in other accompanying material.

PART V

PROTESTS AND CORRECTIONS

Numerous letters received have pointed out that the name "Queen of Hearts" had been carried by a plant exhibited at the 1950 convention in Philadelphia. It was evident that the name should not be used again as shown in the June report. Mrs. Hastings has agreed to substitute the name "Caprice" for the name "Queen of Hearts" on the original application. In the meantime, Mrs. Green has filed an application on the original "Queen of Hearts, and that is listed in Part I above.

The Mahr Company, of Des Moines, Iowa, who filed the application on "Sea Queen" asked that an error in the original application be corrected. Mrs. Ferne Kellar had been listed as the originator, and was so published. Mrs. F. W. Grammel should have been listed as the originator.

Please make the proper notations on your copy of the Registration Report published in the June 1951 issue.

PART VI

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No objections have been filed on any plants published in Part I of the March 1951 Registration Report, so these plants now become permanently registered.

AUTOMATIC - WATERING PLANT-GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32", ¼" and ⅜ inch diameter 15c each. Use 7/32" diameter wick for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

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NNOR, BHC, Sodium Selenate, Red Arrow, Optox, Optox Special, Methoxychlor, Napthalene Flakes, Black Leaf 40, Chlordane

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Fermate, Fungicide A, Arasan, Anti-Damp, Dual Fungicide

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Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Leaf Mold, Peat Moss, Steamed Bone Meal, Superphosphate

MISCELLANEOUS

Plastic plant labels, metal foil, Vitamin B-1, vermiculite, Rootone, wicking, Humidiguides, plate glass

Patronize local violet dealers who handle any of these products. The supplies that they don't carry are available by mail from me.

Write for catalogue. If you sell violets ask for Dealer Price List also.

NEIL C. MILLER

LAYTON'S LAKE

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VARIEGATED AFRICAN VIOLETS
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SOLANGE SLIVKA

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ISOLOMA

TRY A CUTTING

THEY ARE EASY TO GROW

Louise Smouse, S. C.

Cuttings are not hard to start and are highly recommended. Break off a slip and root in water or other rooting medium in the same manner as for African violets. They are very easy to get to grow. When the cutting seems to be doing well and is properly rooted it may be potted.

Rhizomes are best planted in loose fibrous soil similar to that used for Saintpaulias. They soon produce shoots thru the soil, if kept in a warm sunny window in the wintertime. They should not dry out . . . but should be kept slightly moist. Do not keep them too wet.

An Isoloma makes a rather large plant, usually growing to the height of two feet. It will need to be staked to hold it erect with good form.

Tender Loving Care

Boyce M. Edens, Ga.

A short time ago I was visiting my good neighbor Paul Gaertner, genial nurseryman and owner of Peachtree Floral Company, Atlanta, Georgia, in his greenhouses. We were discussing the care essential in good growing of African violets when Paul came up with this remark: "You know, some folks just naturally kill their African violets and other house plants too, with TENDER, LOVING CARE." And how I do agree with him!

Apparently our good member, Russell Gray, does too. Russ owns and operates Russward Saintpaulia Growers in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He issues an attractive price list of the many varieties he grows and thus offers for sale, periodically. The News Letter, a really helpful and unique feature of his February 1951 price list, carries the following question from one of his customers and Russell's answer to it.

"Q. How must I take care of a variegated violet? Do they need more fertilizer than others?"

"A. Well, for one thing you baby it. They're kind of a pain in the neck. The more variegation there is on them, the more sickly they are. They waste away and die if you DON'T fertilize 'em, and their roots are so tender that you often kill 'em if you DO fertilize, so choose your poison. If by any chance you take such good care of them that they flourish, like as not the things will start to grow all green with no variegation at all. In other words, lady, enjoy it while you can."

Now, aside from the many vicissitudes encountered in growing variegated saintpaulias—the albinos—mentioned by Russ, I think his expression, " . . . you baby it," aptly describes the Tender, Loving Care thing I started out talking about. Don't baby them, just see that they have reasonable weekly care and all of your African violets will richly repay you.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Their Care and Propagation

By HELEN B. GILBERT, M.A.

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You can grow **beautiful, healthy, flowering plants.** This illustrated book gives **step-by-step directions.**

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THESE 35c EA., 3—$1—Double Dutchess Sapphire Blue Boy, Blue Bird, Blue Girl, Sailor Boy, White Beauty.
THESE 50c EA., 9—$4—Neptune, Purple Prince, Amethyst, Blue Eyes, Du-Pont Blue, Lavender Pink Ionantha, Kewensis, Mentor Boy, Norseman, Red Head Sky Blue Blue Treasure, Red Bi-Color, Von Dietrick, Viking, Lavender Lady.
THESE 70c EA., 6—$4—Violet Beauty, Sailors Girl, Ruffles, Red King, Blue Velvet, Orchid Girl, Pink Giant, White Lady Supreme.
THESE $1 EA., 6—$5—Lady Geneva, Double Orchid, Double Neptune, Double Light Lavender, Double Light Blue, Gorgeous, Pink Girl, Red Girl, Lavender Girl, Purple Girl, Orchid Girl.
THESE $1.25 EA., 6—$6.50—Fantasy, Sunrise, Rose Purple, McFarland's Blue Warrior.
Free Descriptive List. Enclose Cash, Check or Money Order, plus 15c postage, packing. Ohio residents 3% Sales Tax. Orders $1 or more sent C.O.D. — Free growing instructions with all orders.
Violet Soil 50c pkg. Vermiculite for starting leaves, 50c pkg. Post Paid. Visit our Green Houses. Return for refund, if not pleased.

ROSEBUD FLORAL CO.

351 N. Burgess Ave. Columbus, O. RA. 7671

(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

Greetings to all you nice Pigeons. Again it is time to assemble the hints that I have gleaned from the Pigeon letters that have come to me. If just a few of these hints are new to someone, then I feel that the work and time needed to go through your letters has been worthwhile. Please continue to send me your hints, so that I may pass them along.

Sincerely,
Helen Pochurek

A teaspoon of crushed limestone in the bottom of pot gives my violets a lift. I have also watered my plants with a solution of 1 tea cup of lime to 3 gallons of water.
Nellie Miller, Napton, Mo. Unit 39

Make 4 thicknesses of newspaper about 3 inches wide. Wet well and wring dry. It can then be pushed under plants to cover soil when dipping them in an insecticide solution. Papers are pliable and easy on plants.
Mrs. A. J. Brady, Laclede, Mo.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio
Homing Pigeon
News Editor

Your seedlings planted in vermiculite will be short, stocky little plants if they are kept in a covered dish and given plenty of light. If kept in subdued light, they tend to get leggy.
Martha Husted, Washington, D. C.

Surgical tape with name written on in ink, is fine for those leaves you wish to label. They can be put on either top or bottom of leaf.
Mrs. Milton Eckhardt, Baltimore Md. Unit III

Hazel LaMar of Cheverly, Maryland has painted every pot in every window of her home a medium, dark green. She also uses zinc lined jar tops (with porcelain removed) to set her plants in. These are also painted green. Her windows are some of the prettiest I have ever seen. The painted tops of the pots also prevent petiole rot.
Your Editor

Use discarded jar rubbers on the rim of your pots to end petiole rot. The rubbers can be pulled up from the bottom of the pot, using different sizes for the different size pots. They will lie flat on the top of pot and be inconspicuous .
Mrs. A. Brady, Laclede, Mo.

I am having wonderful success growing plants in a sawdust and soil mixture.
Dalene Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.

I have found leaves root the fastest for me in Perlite. I have tried just about everything and its Perlite for me.
Your Editor

If you plan to be away during the hot summer months, for a week or so, pick off all flower and bud stems that would be opening during your absence. During hot, muggy weather, blossoms remaining on leaves will often rot instead of drying up. When they rot on or between the leaves they will rot a leaf or even a plant in just a few days.
Hazel LaMar, Cheverly, Md.

This is a stunt for the fluorescent growers. Many of us could use more fixtures

GLADYS CANNER
Creek Rd. Rt. 1,
Herkimer, N. Y.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

but the cost of them has us down. With a little bit of work by friend husband, it is easy to make one fixture do the work of two. Have two tables side by side and have hooks over each table. Use the light on one table for 12 hours -- then unhook and use over other table for the next 12 hours. Most lights are used about 12 hours at a time, so that with this system your lights would be burning 24 hours over two tables. For us, a 9 to 9 schedule fits very well.

Your Editor's husband

Here is a trick to use on those plants that like to hug the pot. Let the plant get dry enough so that the leaves are limp. Make a wide cardboard collar to fit under the leaves and on which the leaves will lay. Put the collar on from the bottom and gently ease the leaves up until they are level with top of pot and collar is in position. Then water well. In a few weeks, plants will be normal again and collar can be removed. I have used this method for many large plants that seemed almost hopeless.

Hazel LaMar, Cheverly, Md.

A layer of sand on top of the soil in your pots keeps them from drying out too fast. This is especially good when a vacation of a few days comes along.

Edna Bartels, Ferguson, Mo. Unit 25

SPECIAL — 7 ounce 15 - 30 - 15, completely soluble plantfood (Value - 50c) free witth each $1.25 KAPSULATE.

TIMING IN PLANT GROWTH LAID TO BLUE PIGMENT

Basic Substance Studied by Federal Scientists

Reprinted by courtesy of the Washington Evening Star

Thomas R. Henry

A blue pigment in all plants is responsible for time of flowering and habit of growth. It has been determined by three Agriculture Department scientists.

This pigment exists in such minute quantities that it has been impossible to isolate the substance by any chemical means.

It may turn out to be one of the most basic substances in nature—second only to chlorophyll, the green pigment in leaves which initiates the action of photosynthesis and makes life on earth possible.

Chlorophyll makes it possible for plants to use the energy of sunlight to transform carbon and hydrogen into starches which are the essential fuels for all higher life. The newly demonstrated pigment apparently plays the same role in the phenomenon of photoperiodism.

Compared to Eye "Purple"

It is compared by Drs. H. A. Borthwick, M. W. Parker and S. B. Hendricks of the Beltsville (Md.) experiment station of the Bureau of Plant Industry, to the substance known as visual purple in the retina of the eye which makes vision possible.

While the pigment cannot be extracted from any higher plant, it appears to be quite similar to a coloring material found in blue-green algae which constitute much of the scum on stagnant water and are among the most ancient forms of life now extant.

It long has been known that many plants respond with extreme sensitivity to the lengths of the periods of light and darkness to which they are exposed. This affects primarily their manner of growth. Some grow tall in darkness and some short. Others behave exactly the opposite. Similarly, their times of budding and blossoming and consequently, fruiting are affected.

One of the first discoveries made by the Beltsville scientists was that, contrary to all previous ideas, the length of day in nature or the time of artificial illumination in the greenhouse, made no difference. Everything depended on the length of night or unbroken darkness.

Growth was unaffected if plants were darkened during part of the day. It was very notably affected by very brief periods of illumination during the night.

Light Bands Studied

Drs. Borthwick, Parker and Hendricks then tried to determine what particular light bands in the sun's spectrum were responsible. They found that the rays absorbed were red light which is absorbed by a certain definite shade of blue and that a very small amount of this specific light could bring about the effects which had been observed.

There has been some discussion of an intensified effort to isolate the elusive pigment with the hope that crop growth could be notably affected by injecting it into plants.

Of this the Beltsville scientists are skeptical. They point out that it is quite probable that the substance is necessary only to start off the reaction which eventually may involve the whole physiological system of the plant and that, above the minimum requirement which must be fantastically low, the actual amount present would make little difference. In the same way, they point out, human vision would not be improved by increasing the amount of visual purple in the retina.

Measured by Nature

Presumably, they believe, the required amount has been very delicately measured out by nature. It acts as a catalyst, they believe to set into action another chemical substance yet to be identified, which controls time of flowering.

The same blue pigment, they believe, may be present in some animals and be very

important in some phenomena of animal life. It is somewhat similar, although certainly not identical, with a pigment known as ptero-bilin which has been isolated from the wings of cabbage butterflies. A quite similar material also is found in the shells of some birds eggs.

Other research has shown the influence of day length on reproduction in some animals, on the time of moulting in birds, and on the hair color and fur quality in mammals. These responses may all be initiated by the action of certain red wave lengths of sun light acting through a blue pigment. There can be little doubt, the scientists believe, that they are on the trail of one of the most important links between sunshine and life and one of the prime requiremets of life on this planet.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS

As Chairman of the Committee on Show Preparation and Judging I wish to correct a statement made by Charles J. Hudson Jr., in his article on "Fancier African Violets" in the Nov. 1951 issue of Popular Gardening. He stated that at the Dayton 1951 National Show the Society did not allow plants grown under fluorescent lights to be judged by the same scale of points as were other African violets, and that special classes were being written for those plants.

The Society adopted at the Annual Meeting in Dayton, Ohio April 8, 1951, a recommendation that all Saintpaulias be judged by the same scale of points regardless of growing method. See Member's Handbook, page 16 for details.

Ruth G. Carey, Chairman

CHICAGO AND YOU FOR

1952

But

NOW IS THE TIME

To

Groom The Old Favorites

Grow Your Seedlings

Develop Specimen Plants

And

WE DO MEAN **YOU**!

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA

The Princess Anne County African Violet Society held its first show at the Paramount Restaurant at Virginia Beach, Virginia Beach, Virginia on April 11 from 2 to 9. There was no admission charge. In addition to the display there was one table reserved for sale plants.

There were numerous door prizes which had been donated by the merchants of Princess Anne County. Over one hundred plants were on display.

In the year that the club has been organized the membership has grown to thirty-five members.

Officers for the club are:

President,	Mrs. Harry F. Ames
Secretary,	Mrs. Laurence Lockwood
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. C. Hutchinson
Publicity,	Mrs. D. Y. Malbon
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Mildred McClanan

THE FLINT SOCIETY

The Flint African Violet Society held their last meeting of the season on July 12, 1951 at the home of the newly elected President, Mrs. I. E. Clement.

Mrs. James Atkins, retiring president asked for the officers reports and expressed her gratitude for the services of the officers the past two years.

Plans were discussed concerning a display of African violets at the Yard and Garden Club Show September 8th and 9th in the I. M. A. Auditorium. Mrs. Frank Dilley is chairman.

The following new officers were elected to take office in September:

President,	Mrs. I. E. Clement
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. William Jaynes
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Ellen Fritters
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Alice Bryant

The club presented the retiring president, Mrs. James Atkins with a gift.

ST. PAUL SOCIETIES

The Groveland Park Pixies African Violet Club of St. Paul Minnesota, have elected the following officers:

President,	Mrs. A. E. Einen
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. P. J. Frawley
Program Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. McAfee

This is the first group organized in St. Paul and now has a membership of eleven, with meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 o'clock. The members have been working in the U. S. Veterans Hospital tuberculosis ward and are teaching the men to grow African violets. Helen Van Pelt Wilson's book was purchased and presented to them as were pots, soil, leaves and Terralite. Most of the men are long term patients and isolatel so they all enjoy their violets.

The second club to be organized is St. Paul is the Fringette African Violet Club whose officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Frank Rand
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. V. Price
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. P. W. Baldwin

Meeting date for the eleven members of this group is the first Monday of the month at 1:15. They have taken the senile women's ward of the Rochester State Hospital as their project. They held an African violet show at the Hamline Branch Library on May 11, which included a demonstration on pollinating, seed sowing, growing mediums and potting.

Mr. Bob Anderson of the Tonkadale Nursery spoke on "How to Grow Violets" and conducted a question and answer period.

The third group to be organized in St. Paul is the Fantasy African Violet Club, whose officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Clayton Witte
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. John D. Carley
Tel.-Chairman,	Mrs. T. W. Wing

The meeting date for the nine members of this group is the first Wednesday of the month at 1:30 o'clock for a desert luncheon. This is a very new club and has no project as yet.

The fourth and newest club to be organized in St. Paul is the Gypsies African Violet Club. Officers for this group are:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Patton
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. Willard Meyer

Meeting date is the third Thursday of the month at 1:15 o'clock.

THE GREATER AKRON AFRICAN VIOLET SHOW

More than twenty three hundred visitors attended the Greater Akron, Ohio, African Violet show at the M. O'Neil Company's second floor auditorium on April 16 and 17, 1951.

Blue red and white ribbons were awarded in the seventeen competitive classes for members and in the eight competitive classes for non-members, with a gold ribbon "Queen of the Show" going to Mrs. Frank Oros for her white seedling. A table featuring propagation, showing various rooting mediums with demonstrations of pollination was the subject of much attention. A plant sale which was a club project could hardly be kept stocked with enough plants, so great was the demand.

There were beautiful displays by commercial growers, and two neighboring clubs the African Violet Society of Akron and the Medina County African Viollet Society were invited to exhibit their prize plants. The Medina club had an outstanding arrangement which featured a huge artists palette and brushes. Instead of splotches of paint along the edges of the palette, pots of violets ranging from white to deep purple were hung. The area surrounding the easel was flanked with plants.

Judges were Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. John Landaker, both of Cincinnati and Mrs. Frank Pochurek of Cleveland.

Show committee consisted of Mrs. Harold Dannemiller, chairman; Mrs. T. A. O'Neil, co-chairman; Mrs. Harry Baughman and Mrs. W. G. White.

NEW CHICAGO VIOLET CLUB

The Rosaonna African Violet club was organized on March 7, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir, 7850 Caldwell Road, Chicago, Illinois. The following officers were elected for a term of one year:

President,	Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Wechselberger
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. J. M. Hock
Corres.,	Mrs. A. C. Kettel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Frank Petrick

The club membership is limited to thirty and meets the second Monday of the month. The name "Rosaonna" was chosen in honor of Mrs. Rosa Peters of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the originator of the Rosaonna series.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

A private showing of African violets by the Viking African Violet Club of Webster Groves, Missouri, took place on Wednesday June 13, at the home of Mrs. J. L. Cook of Webster Groves for the club members and their friends.

One hundred and twenty nine plants were on display, made up of eighty varieties and two seedlings. Also on display were nineteen specimen plants.

Mrs. E. B. McClure, lecturer and writer of the garden column of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, was the speaker. She centered her attention on the specimen display and chose three specimen plants as outstanding; a Viking grown by Mrs. William Anderson, Red King grown by Mrs. J. E. Stotzel, and Sunrise grown by Mrs. J. B. Counts.

Mrs. McClure gave the club many valuable hints on the growing and showing of African violets.

DAYTON OHIO

The Kewensis African Violet Society of Dayton, Ohio was organized in the autumn of 1949 with seven charter members and at the closing of its second year boasts of a total of nineteen members, all, with one exception, being members of the National Society.

Meetings are held every two months on the third Thursday, the July meeting being a picnic.

Programs are planned on the growth and culture of the African violet with time being given for problems, hints, and cultural discussions.

Present officers are:

President,	Mrs. Pauline Gross
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Dorothea Gross
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Marie McNulty
Secretary,	Mrs. Helen Slade
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marie Leleman

ROYAL OAK MICHIGAN

Oaklandites African Violet Club of Royal Oak Michigan was organized on January 9, 1951 at the home of Mrs. Cecil Clinard. At that time officers were elected for six months. New officers are:

President,	Mrs. Cecil Clinard
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Leo Ozarzak
Secretary,	Mrs. John Stocker
Treasurer,	Mrs. Homer Hane

KANSAS CITY MISSOURI

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City, Missouri held their second election of officers in September. The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. W. P. Dahnke
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. J. G. Herman
Secretary,	Mrs. R. M. Cochran
Treasurer,	Mr. R. H. Seever
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. E. E. Davis
Historian,	Mrs. C. H. Randall
Show Chairman,	Mrs. J. G. Herman

Plans are being made for a show to be held in February next year.

GREENVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB

The annual picnic in June for club members and their husbands closed one of the most out-standing years since the organization of the Greenville Violet Club in November 1947.

The programs of the year were filled with practical suggestions and variety contributed by the talent among club members. Highlights of visits to national African violet growers and advantages of membership in the National Society were given on two programs.

The third show for the club was staged on April 9, 1951, which was one of the most unusual and out-standing flower shows ever held in Greenville. From this show the club has started a collection of Kodachrome slides.

Before this year the projects of the club have been to furnish African violets for the Woman's Club, hospitals and shut-ins, and to contribute arrangements in co-operation with the Garden clubs. Mrs. E. B. Copeland, the retiring president, recommended that the club contribute toward the furnishing of the living room at the new County home. The club contributed fifty dollars on this project.

The following officers were installed in May to serve from June 1951 through June 1952:

President,	Mrs. J. W. Brabham
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ed Copeland
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. S. M. Cassels
Asst. Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. D. P. DeVoursey
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. E. Anderson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Leon Kimmel
Reporter,	Mrs. W. B. Mulligan

SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

The Saintpaulia Society of Sacramento, California now has fifty one National members and twelve local members, making sixty three members in all. The following are officers:

President,	Mrs. Hugo Hall
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. R. McClahanan
Secretary,	Mrs. L. C. Jopson
Treasurer,	Mrs. B. M. Scribner
Program Chm.,	Mrs. Lucas Hauptman, Jr.

The summer meetings have been held in the Garden Center at 10:00 a. m. followed by a picnic in the beautiful park which surrounds the Center.

ST. LOUIS MISSOURI

The first meeting of the Normandy African Violet Club of St. Louis, Missouri was held at the home of Mrs. Albert Poos on May 1, 1951. As vacation time was near the members decided to elect officers in December and to draw up the by laws at that time. To date there are twelve members with a limit of eighteen. This is the third club to be organized in St. Louis and St. Louis County.

INGLEWOOD CALIFORNIA

A new chapter was formed on June 4, 1951 to be known as the Inglewood Branch of the African Violet Society of America. Eight were present at the first meeting. The group will meet the first Monday of each month. The following temporary officers were appointed:

President,	Mrs. D. R. Jones
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. F. K. Ehrhardt
Secy. & Treas.,	Mrs. M. Grouell

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The First African Violet Society of Chicago, elected and installed the following officers to take office on September 1, 1951:

President,	Mrs. W. H. Fowkes
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. E. Greely
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. L. J. Grant
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. P. L. Yates
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. H. H. Carlson
Treasurer,	Mrs. J. Robbins
Historian,	Mrs. M. E. Hansen

The club meetings will be held at the Mayfair Park Fieldhouse on the first Thursday of each month.

SAN GABRIEL CALIFORNIA

The San Gabriel Valley Society closed it's two and one-half years on June 13, 1951 with Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey turning over her gavel to Mrs. Allen A. Adams, the newly elected president. A pot luck luncheon was enjoyed by eighty-seven members and guests. The five other southland clubs, Los Angeles, Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro, South Bay, and Long Beach were represented.

After a short program, installation of officers was held. Mrs. Mackey, as Regional Councilor, installed the new officers, her theme being "Our Watch."

Newly elected officers for the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. Allen A. Adams
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ted Banks
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Wm. Stone
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. G. Skinner
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Roscoe Kindrick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Chas. Langdale
Publicity,	Mrs. H. A. Peterson

The club voted to close its meetings to visitors, and new members are to be sponsored before being admitted to membership. The club boasts of a membership of over one hundred-twenty.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

The members of the Webster Groves African Violet Society, Chapter 1, entertained their husbands at a barbecue on Saturday July 21, 1951 in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Paulus.

The first fall meeting was held Thursday September 20. 1951 at 1 p. m. The hostess was Mrs. J. H. Sivells, 618 Oakwood Ave., Webster Groves. The program. "History of the African violet," by Mrs. W. C. Berkemeyer.

The November 15th meeting was a pilgrimage to the H. C. Renner greenhouse.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Elite Chapter of the First African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois entered a "Special Exhibit" in the Beverly Hills Womans Club Garden show held on September 7, 1951. The fifty plants shown were awarded a purple and a blue ribbon.

Two blue ribbons were awarded Mrs. Frank Anderson for plants in unusual containers. Three red ribbons went to Mrs. R. J. Maier for outstanding plants and Mrs. R. Trendler, president of the Elite club won two red and one yellow ribbons for her entries.

SAGINAW MICHIGAN

The African Violet Society of Saginaw, Michigan consists of the Amethyst and Rose Marie chapters and have elected the following officers for the year 1951:

President,	Mrs. Wm. Gelow
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Harvey List
Secretary,	Mrs. M. A. Bray
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Phillips

The two chapters meet separately once a month and are studying the history, soil, propagation and identification of the African violet. The two chapters met recently for a pot luck picnic and are now planning an exhibit for the county fair.

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

The Los Angeles Society closed its third year with Carolyn Rector, it's noted president succeeded by Mrs. Holmes Harris. The program for the day was "Carolyn Rector Day," and a very lovely ovation was given her by Mrs. Harris. The club presented Mrs. Rector with a beautifully wrapped gift package, containing wik-pots, as their appreciation for her two years service. Installation of officers was conducted by Mrs. Ernest Mackey, Regional Councilor for this district. Her theme was "Our Ship." She was accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Wm. Stone, who furnished background music.

The officers for the ensuing year are:

President,	Mrs. Holmes Harris
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. John Gallagher
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. G. Watters
Treasurer,	Miss M. Garbutt
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. G. A. Gauger
Membership,	Mrs. N. Cobb
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. F. D. Price
Director at Large,	Mrs. Carolyn Rector

As a part of the program Mrs. Rector displayed her new registered violets.

MARSHALL MISSOURI

The Marshall, Missouri African Violet Club was organized September 12, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. H. Odom with fourteen charter members. Officers elected for the coming year were:

President,	Mrs. W. H. Odom
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. I. Ferguson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. B. C. Stolberg
Corres. Secy.,	Miss Ada Naegllin
Treasurer,	Mrs. Guy McAmis

Meetings will be held the first Saturday of the month at 2 o'clock in the members homes.

ROTENONE

U. S. Department of Agriculture
(Permission to reprint granted.)

The colorless, crystalline chemical compound known as rotenone is found in the roots of several so-called "fish-poison" plants, the most important of which are the genera Derris and Lonchocarpus. Derris is native to the Far Eastern Tropics. Lonchocarpus is native to the Amazon Basin and the rain forests of northern South America.

Although practically unknown in the United States as recently as 20 years ago, rotenone is now among the most widely used insecticides of plant origin. It is ideal for use on crop plants because it leaves no harmful residue. It will control many of the leaf-chewing beetles and caterpillars, the Mexican bean beetle, leaf beetles, flea beetles on tomatoes, radishes, carrots, beets, and plants grown for greens, and will help check the Japanese beetle. It will also control caterpillars on cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce; aphids on turnips; striped and spotted cucumber beetles on melon and squash; European corn borer on sweetcorn; Melonworms and pickleworms on squash, cantaloupes, and cucumbers.

What kind of insecticide is this, so deadly to destructive insects, yet safe to use on the most tender fruits and vegetables? Since early times, people in many tropical countries, especially in the East Indies, Africa, India, and South America, have used rotenone-bearing plants to catch fish. Natives of the Amazon Valley crushed the roots in water and poured the mixture into a stream. The fish, stunned temporarily, rose to the surface where they were easy to catch. To this day, certain riverbank dwellers of the Amazon plant small plots of "fish poison" along with their food crops whenever they move to a new home.

The sudden rise of rotenone in United States commerce is one of the most astonishing developments of agricultural history. By 1937, total imports of crude and ground root were a little over 2,000,000 pounds. In 1946, imports reached nearly 11½ million pounds. Over 99 per cent of this amount consisted of Lonchocarpus from South America. Peruvian plantations alone accounted for nearly 11 million pounds.

Before the war (1938-40), the world commercial production of rotenone-bearing roots averaged 9,750,000 pounds a year, 4,000,000 pounds coming from Brazil and Peru. Important producers in the East were British Malaya and the Netherlands Indies, which together supplied another 4,000,000 pounds.

During the war, when imports of derris root from the Far East were cut off, production of Lonchocarpus in the Western Hemisphere was greatly increased. At the present time, Lonchocarpus plantations in Eastern Peru, in the Amazon headwater region, furnish most of the world supply of rotenone. From 12,000 to 18,000 acres of this area are devoted to Lonchocarpus culture.

When the plants are about two and a half years old, the roots are ready to be dug. Harvesting requires a strong back and strong arms. Most of the roots spread out laterally, but a few grow almost directly downward. The gatherer's job is to salvage as much of the entire root system as possible, working with a machete and a long stout sharp-pointed pole.

Freshly dug roots contain about 60 per cent moisture. In preparation for export they are stored for several months, until their moisture content has been reduced to about 20 per cent of their weight, then baled and wrapped in burlap or unbleached muslin. On the ocean voyage from the Amazon the roots usually lose considerable moisture, and arrive in fairly dry condition.

In the United States, the crude roots are ground in special mills and mixed with clay or talc. Most of the commercial insecticides contain less than 1 per cent rotenone. If thoroughly applied, a dust containing as little as one-fourth of 1 per cent is effective against many common insects.

Just a friendly wish for a Happy Christmas and a Glad New Year.

Alma Wright Mary Parker

1952

INTRODUCING

GRAND AWARD The GIANT OF DOUBLES. This variety received first prize as an unnamed seedling double at the 1951 N. A. V. C. at Dayton, Ohio. It produces larger blooms than any other double variety we have grown. The flowers are medium blue, on strong erect stems, standing well above foliage, unlike most other doubles. Foliage is rather large, of medium green color. Its growth habit gives this plant a stately character. It is truly the monarch of double violets. $2.50

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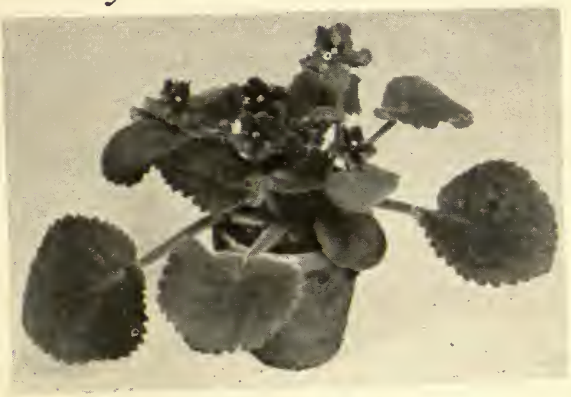

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

C O N T E N T S

Vol. 5 March 1952 No.3

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends:

Your PARTICULAR ATTENTION is called to "Nutrition of the African Violet, by Jesse M. Rawson on page 52. This splendid article is good club program material and is recommended to you --

Henry Ten Hagen would like to hear at once from members who have questions on commercial growing problems . . such as shipping, new varieties etc. See "What is Going on Under Glass?" On the Friday afternoon Convention Program. Henry is the leader.

Thru some error I can't explain the author of the poem "My Favorite Picture" has been lost. Will she let me hear from her? Please?

Sincerely,

Alma Wright

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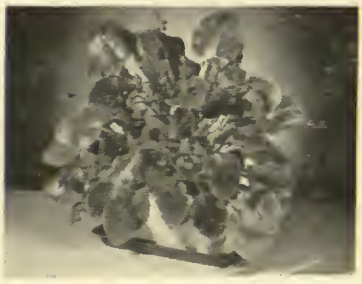

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OUR SECOND VIOLET

Mabel B. Raines, Tenn.

We often hear "third time is the charm." But with us it was the second time.

About four years ago my husband and I had called on a dear friend, with whom we exchange plants freely. As we were about to drive away she called, "Wait!" and disappeared. When she returned she was carrying a small cardboard cup. It was filled with soil and a small plant.

She gave it to me with these instructions. "This is a very lovely Blue Leatherneck, African violet, put it in a pot that has a hole in the bottom and keep it damp. -- Now don't let it dry out like your ole Cacti -- I don't have a suitable container and it will die in this cup."

(At that time I was interested in cacti and had one of, if not, the largest collections in our town.)

A short time before, I had been given a nice violet plant, with instructions for its care. It promptly died and I was so sure this one would do the same that when we reached home I took a 4 inch clay pot into the vegetable garden (it had been fertilized generously with phosphate) filled it with soil and planted the violet.

We could almost see it growing. Soon it had huge leaves and was full of blossoms.

It has never been repotted, but has been fed a weak solution of Hyponex as often as once a week.

It is one of our largest, loveliest plants and is seldom without blooms.

First with the Latest and the Best

AFRICAN VIOLETS

BRILLIANT NEW PINK FANTASY

THIS LOVELY DEEP PINK SPORT OF OUR FAMOUS FANTASY IS THE MOST ADMIRED AND SOUGHT AFTER OF ALL OUR AFRICAN VIOLETS. ITS LARGE GLOWING PINK BLOSSOMS, SHADED CERISE, STAND OUT TALL AND ERECT ABOVE THE DEEP GREEN FOLIAGE. YOU WILL LOVE THIS STRIKINGLY BEAUTIFUL COLOR CONTRAST. TRULY, IT IS THE DARKEST, DEEPEST PINK WE KNOW OF.

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TWO $1 VIOLETS FREE — with any $10 order.

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Plants shipped Parcel Post — Special Handling.

See You in Chicago

It is with a great deal of humbleness that I start this present year. Your many kind wishes are most appreciated. One early wish in particular was quite expressive: "You are stepping into some pretty big shoes (somehow that does not sound very complimentary to Mrs. Radtke) -- but I mean it as a compliment anyway." The success of our African Violet Society can only be achieved by the utmost cooperation from each and every member.

Again -- we are favored with a colored front cover. There will be more through the cooperation of some of our commercial growers. There is a possibility that if you have a 4 x 5 Ektachrome transparency which is **"GOOD"** as far as subject, color, etc., are concerned, we may be able to use it. These can be submitted to our Editor for her consideration.

I wish to call special attention to two African violet groups who have donated generously to our Research Program. The African Violet Club of Salem County, N. J. and the Cleveland Metropolitan African Violet Society . . . . . Congratulations to Mrs. Carrie Reeves of Woodston, N. J., Secretary of the Salem group; and to Mrs. John W. Held of Fairview Park, Ohio, Treasurer of the Cleveland Society.

Plans for our Sixth Annual Convention to be held at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, on April 24th, 25th and 26th are now complete with a few "polishes" here and there. Mrs. William H. Fowkes, General Chairman, and Mrs. Elmer Szontagh, Co-chairman, with their committees have a truly outstanding convention planned. There will be many new features. You are invited to bring plants to compete in the show which promises to be a very interesting feature. Special emphasis is being given to our commercial growers. There will be a separate room for display and sale of plants, accessories, etc. This will not be in conflict with the regular display of the latest and newest varieties shown by our growers and dealers. Society and club year books will again compete. We are promised meals which will satisfy everyone. (Remember Dayton?)

Our Program Chairman for our convention, Mrs. E. G. Magill, and her committee have a splendid program planned. It is one that will be of special interest and benefit to the amateur grower as well as the advanced collector.

I would like to call your particular attention to Mr. Stinson's report of "Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University." This is valued information!!! To some of you it won't mean too much now -- but just be sure and keep the December issue and I know that you will refer to it many times. Experimental information of this kind grows in value as this Saintpaulia hobby grows with you!

Will the Presidents, Treasurers or Secretarys of the local groups **PLEASE** send in applications and remittances as soon as received? Some of these are being held (even for a short time) and this sometimes means that some do not get the issue to which they are entitled. It will save much worry and grief if this is taken care of promptly.

I am most grateful for your many Christmas cards. They are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Stinson

Step 1—

Measuring the Parathion

A PARATHION DIP FOR MITE

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Parathion is nearly the ideal insecticide for African violets. It absolutely conquers Cyclamen Mite and Mealy Bug, two of the most serious pests with which the African violet grower has to contend. It is probable that the majority of the commercial growers of African violets are today using Parathion in one form or another. Unfortunately, it is dangerous and in the form used by the commercial growers (generally spray from an aerosol bomb) it is not applicable to amateur conditions. However, used as a dip, with adequate safety precautions, it can be used by the serious amateur with near miraculous results. The writer has been using a Parathion dip for the past two years. He has ridden through two serious infestations of Mite and has never lost a plant dipped in Parathion either from Mite or from the effects of the dip -- and some of the plants were pretty far gone from Mite infestation before they were dipped.

The safety precautions are as follows:

1. Always work with Parathion outdoors with plenty of ventilation, never in a closed room. (This precludes its use in winter).

2. Change all clothing and take a complete bath after working with Parathion.

3. Use rubber gloves that do not leak when dipping the plants.

4. If any Parathion gets on the skin, stop every thing and flush it off immediately with copious applications of running water from a faucet or something of the kind.

5. Avoid smelling the Parathion as much as possible. Keep the mouth closed, breathe through the nose, and pretend that the smell is about ten times as bad as it really is. (It is fairly bad smelling stuff anyway).

Step 2—

Folding the Packet.

6. Clean up everything scrupulously after you are through. Copious flushing with plain water is better than washing with a limited amount of water; pour the expended dip down the drain, followed with plenty of clear water; gather up contaminated papers and burn them; flush off tops of tables with plenty of clear water and the like.

Paradoxically, if you consider Parathion as extremely dangerous, it will be perfectly safe; if you consider it perfectly safe, it will be extremely dangerous: The first symptoms of Parathion poisoning are headache, nasal inflamation and a slight feeling of nausea, and if these preliminary warnings are heeded, serious trouble can very easily be avoided. Also, the trouble is not cumulative, when an attack is over, it is entirely thrown off and will have no further effect on the system. The writer had one slight case, caused by smoking a pipe while dipping the plants. That pipe got to be the worst tasting thing that any one ever put in his mouth -- it still tastes that way -- and a slight headache resulted which entirely disappeared in three or four hours.

The usual commercial form of Parathion is a 15% wettable powder, and about three pounds, costing around three dollars and a half is the smallest amount that can be purchased. Mine came in a gallon tin can, with a pressed on lid, like a syrup can. I use it in the proportion of ½ oz. to three gallons of water, which means, practically, two heaping teaspoonsful to a bucket (12 quarts) of water. The dosage is not at all critical, half as much or twice as much could probably be used with just as good results.

The first problem is to get the powder measured out in half-ounce doses. Take the can outdoors, pry the lid off, measure out two heaping teaspoonsful and put them in the center of a piece of waxed paper perhaps twelve inches long by nine inches wide. Fold this paper up like a druggist folds up a powder, first putting the long edges together and folding them over on themselves two or three times and then folding over the two ends, making a packet perhaps an inch wide and three inches long. Slip a rubber band over this packet to hold it and then drop it into a quart Mason jar. Make up six or more of these packets, screw the lid on the jar, and that part of the job is done. The packets can stay in the jar for months. I wish I could tell you to use rubber gloves while doing this, but I can't: I tried it, and it does not work.

Next comes the actual dipping. I use an "A" sized tub, which is an overgrown galvanized pail with a handle, holding about five gallons. Then I get a regular 12 quart pail and run it about a third full of water. With rubber gloves on, I then take a packet of the Mason jar and open it into the pail, just as close to the water as possible so that the powder will not float out into the air. The pail is then filled with water

Step 3—

Dipping the plants.

Note the very long, heavy gloves.

and poured into the "A" tub, and another pailful mixed up to complete the filling of the tub. The plants are then dunked into the tub. All of the foliage should be completely and enthusiastically immersed, particularly the flowers and buds. Put the whole pot under water if you want to.

Next comes the drying off of the plants. They should dry off in the open air or at least in a place where people will not be breathing a concentration of the contaminated air. A porch, a garage, under some trees or even a well ventilated room closed off from the rest of the house by a closed door will be satisfactory. If, like me, you dip in the afternoon, you certainly must not put the wet plants in a bedroom where people sleep that night. By next morning, everything is over and no further precautions need be taken.

The dip will get dirty pretty promptly, and then there is the question of cleaning it. If you want to, you can dump the dirty dip out and start over. You never are going to use up the three pounds of Parathion you had to buy, so there is no object of being saving of it. However, I pour it through a strainer from the tub to a pail, straining out the floating debris through cheese cloth inside the strainer. Most of the heavy sediment stays in the bottom of the tub, and I throw that out. New dip is added from time to time to make up for that taken up by the plants or wasted. Every plant in the menage is dipped at one time, whether it shows any Mite infection or not. Mites are pesky creatures, and you want to get every one of them at one time.

One dip will stop all Mite activity. One good thorough dipping and they are done. Recuperation of the plants will start at once. However, I follow up with a second dip a week later and a third two weeks after the second as insurance and I think it is well worth while. After the third dip comes the job of cleaning off the dirty leaves and generally making the plants look neat. Those plants seriously damaged by the Mite will require considerable time to get back to normal. New leaves will start in the center of the crown

WARNING

PARATHION IS A DANGEROUS POISON AND MUST BE USED WITH EXTREME CARE—

Step 4—

Straining the dirty dip.

to take the place of those ruined by Mites, but this is quite a long drawn out process. The leaves will start all around the crown and would produce three or four new crowns if left to themselves, so it is necessary to carefully select the best new crown and pinch off the others. But in four or five months, the plants will be back again, blooming just as vigorously as ever, and not letting on that there ever was a Mite near them. The plants that had no apparent infestation suffer no damage what ever from the Parathion dip. The flowers are not even discolored, nor do they show any tendency to drop off as a result of the dip. It is only a very slight exaggeration to say that the dip acts as a fertilizer on them.

The point is that with Parathion, the margin between strengths that will kill the insects and those which will damage the plants is so wide that there is plenty of room to play in. In this respect, it differs from most other insecticides and it is from this characteristic that Parathion gains its advantage. Altogether, Parathion has opened up new prospects in the African violet field and has reduced Mite and Mealy Bug infestations from major catastrophes to petty work producing nuisances.

SULPHUR AND PARATHION

Reprinted with permission of Florist Review

Although Parathion has given excellent results with injury only to a limited number of plants (crassulas. Boston ferns. kalanchoes and a few varieties of chrysanthemums), you will run into serious trouble if you use it when the plants have sulphur in any form on them or if you use sulphur while the Parathion is present on the plants.

The length of time necessary to allow between applications of either of these two materials would vary, depending upon the method of application. Observations indicate that it is safe to use sulphur about ten days after Parathion has been applied in aerosol form. If it has been applied as a spray, it seems better to wait a little longer before dusting, spraying or fumigating with sulphur.

To avoid injury and to get the maximum kill, be sure that the temperature is 75 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. When using aerosols, keep the house closed for at least two hours following fumigation; then for additional results close the house down for about two hours each day for the next three or four days to get the full residual effect on the plants. Avoid high humidity, and be sure that the plants are dry when the application is made.

Parathion still looks like the best all-around insecticide for aphis, cabbage loopers, centipedes, crickets, cutworms, rose beetles, white flies, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs, thrips and tarnished plant bugs.

Two to four applications may be necessary to win complete control of aphis, greenhouse leaf tiers, leaf miners, leaf rollers, mealy bugs and thrips. Three applications may be necessary on mites, and four or five applications may be necessary on midge.

Left, photo

Number 1 Shows the vat and placement of the grill.

Below, photo

Number 2 shows the grill in place.

AUTOMATIC-IRRIGATION of POT PLANTS

John P. Toberman, Texas

The Automatic-Irrigation of plants is fast becoming widely used by the commercial grower and is the ideal method for the home gardener whether in the window garden or the home greenhouse.

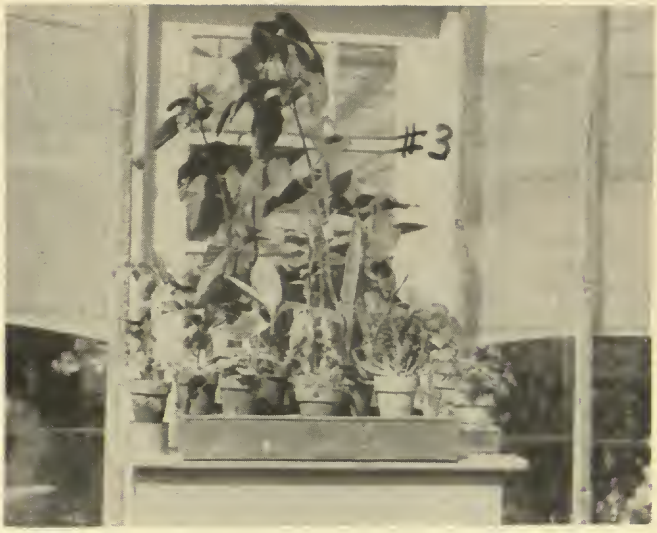
This method takes most of the worry and disappointment out of the production of plants for it eliminates over-and under-watering with the hose or watering can, the spreading of disease by splashing water, and it gives the grower complete control of feeding by the use of liquid nutrients.

The mainstay of this system of Automatic-Irrigation is the Plant Glaswick made of spun glass fiber which does not decay or corrode and is chemically neutral, thus eliminating any detrimental reactions. This system was first evolved by Dr. Kenneth Post of the Cornell University School of Floriculture and is endorsed by the Geo. Ball Co., and other large commercial growers.

In my first experiments I tried the system recommended by Dr. Post of using a series of eaves-troughs as reservoirs for the water or the liquid nutrients. I soon found this system too cumbersome, lacking flexibility, and of having too small water capacity.

I evolved a system of my own whereby I used grilled-vats that would fit inside of my greenhouse benches. I found that this system gave the maximum of flexibility for your seed and cutting flats or pans and all types of pot plants.

I had my metalsmith make the vats of a good grade of "COPPER-LOY" sheet galvanized metal 40" x 42" x 4", 3½' being the width of my benches, which could be easily handled by one man. I made the grills of 1 x 4"s for the sides, 1 x 3"s for the ends, 1 x 1"s for the slats spaced 1" apart for the wicks. See photo No. 1. Also put in cross brace of a 1 x 1" so the grill slats will not sag in the middle under the weight of the pots.



A grilled vat loaded with a variety of house plants growing successfully with wick watering.

The size of the grills depends on the size of your vats for the grills MUST be made just the right size so they can be lifted out of the vats easily for periodic cleaning. C-A-U-T-I-O-N: BE SURE that your metalsmith makes all of your vats true to the measurements you give him or you will have TROUBLE. I K-N-O-W, one vat was not exactly true and the grill stuck fast, "nuf-said." The grilled vat in the photos has been used continuously for over 5 years and does not show any rust as yet.

You ladies may say, "Mercy Me-No, those old vats would simply look awful in any ones home." Please do not jump at conclusions, first look at the following pictures in these 1950 and 1951 issues of the African Violet Magazine; page 27 Dec. issue, pages 14 and 15 March issue and pages 22, 24, 25, 29 and 31 of the June issue. Now just use a little ingenuity like Mrs. Ryder did, as shown on page 22 of the June issue, and similar or any decorative fronts, to suit the individual fancy, can be used by all of you on your tables and shelves. All Mrs. Ryder will have to do will be to make grills for her vats and equip her pots with wicks and she will be through watering her plants individually.

Plant Glaswick comes in three sizes; 7/32", 1/4" and 3/8" diameter and 4"s long and cost only 15c each OR for those with a lot of plants there is a big saving by buying the 190' rolls which will make 300 of the 4" wicks per roll.

First I will give you the applications for the use of the different sizes of wicking as suggested by the manufacturer of the wicking. I followed these suggestions in my first experiments but was not satisfied with the results obtained. They suggested 7/32" wicks for 2" to 3½" pots, 1/4" wicks for 7" to 12" pots, flats, porch boxes, hanging baskets, etc. I found this classification very unsatisfactory.

I have demonstrated that besides the size of the pots you must take into consideration the type of plant and its affinity for water, the size of its root system and the amount of vegetative growth, the amount and type of heat and

Illustrated below is a 12 inch hanging wire basket that has been equipped with automatic irrigation.

humidity the plant will have to live in before you can actually determine the size of wicking to use in each pot. Your soil type will have a lot to do in making your decision. While you have the plant out of the pot be sure to note the moisture content of the root-ball as this will help you to decide on the proper size of wick to use. This may all sound very complicated but it will quickly become second nature with you and be taken in at a glance.

To properly handle this system you should have a cigar box or some similar receptacle, in which you place two divisions, thus giving you three compartments and lable the inside of the lid 7/32", 1/4" and ⅜". This way your different size wicks will be separate and you will not be making mistakes in your potting. Because your wicking is made of spun glass fiber it will not rot or corrode and can be used indefinitely, so as you repot from, say a 4" to a 5" pot, you lay the 4" pot and its wick aside, place a clean wick of the size you have decided on, in the 5" pot and complete the potting.

When you are through repotting a batch of plants always clean all the old soil out of the pots you have just emptied and scrub them good, also wash and dry the wicks that were in the pots you have just cleaned. When they are dry place them in their proper compartment in the box you have for them and they are ready to use again. By doing this your Automatic-Irrigation system will not be as expensive as you thought it would be.

If you sell any of your potted plants equipped with wicks be sure to add 15c to the sales price for the wick, if they do not want to pay the extra 15c just "yank" the wick out of the bottom of the pot and keep it.

To use a new wick you first unravel 1" of the outside jacket thus exposing the core of two strands of twisted glass fiber. Look closely and you will see that each strand is composed of two strands of fiber. Now carefully separate these two strands so as not to "fuzz" out the fiber. Do the same with the other original strand thus giving you four strands on the frayed end. Place an 8" azalea or bulb pan bottom up on the potting bench and set your 4" "squatty" pot on the 8" pot so the holes coordinate. Drop the wick through the holes and "fan out" the frayed end of the wick on the inside of the bottom of the 4" pot and put a handfull of your potting soil and firm it down to hold the wick in place. The idea of the two pots is to let the wick swing free and give you both hands to use in your potting. Do not use any drainage material as that would break the capillary attraction. Complete your potting in the usual way and water the new soil down, from then on the wick will do the work; do not let the bottom of the pot touch the water in the vat.

My African violets took to wick culture like a duck to water. When my leaf cuttings are rooted, I pot them up in 2" pots and plunge them to the rim in moist sand until the new plants appear and are ready to pot, I then shift to a

Devils Ivy in a 3 pound Crisco can as an irrigator. The longest runner is 84 inches long -- and still running.

paraffin rimmed 4" "squatty" pot equipped with a 7/32" wick where I grow them until they are sold. The rims are insulated with hot paraffin to protect the petioles from "pot snow," the alkaline secretion from the water, which causes petiole rot. The paraffin also protects the petioles from being injured from rubbing against sharp projections.

I have all of my African violets on wick watering, including my S. grotei, the new trailer or climber. When I divide a multiple crown plant I put all divisions in wick-watered 4" "squatty" pots, including the divisions that do not have roots. These latter I place under fluorescent lights which I have 24" over the grilled vats where I keep my seed pans and cutting flats under the potting bench.

Cont. on Page 46

African Violets In A Strawberry Jar

Lauretta L. Littig, Iowa

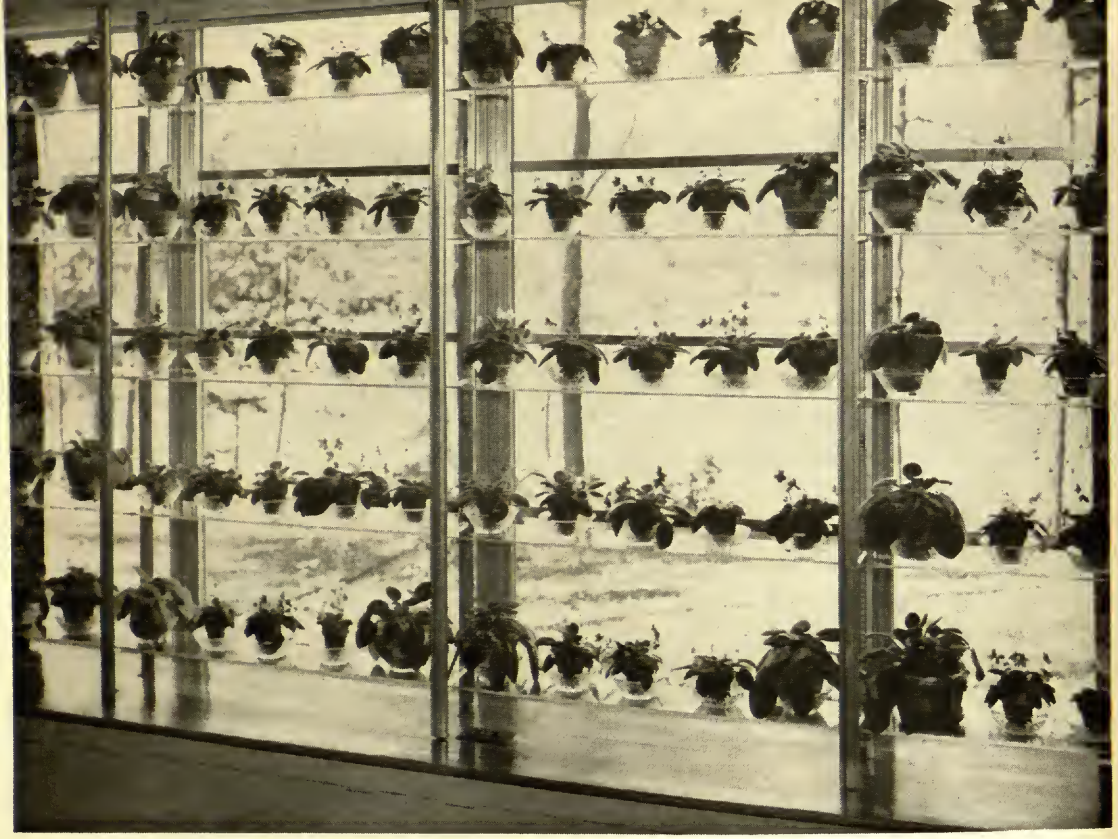
Some time ago, in going through a Pottery, I saw a Strawberry Jar. I thought it would be fun to use it for African violets, although some of my friends said it would not work.

The jar is glazed, about six inches high, and has five openings. In the top, I planted Blue Boy, and in the sides, Bi-Color, Pink Beauty, Red Head, and White Lady.

When I bought it, I had them make a hole in the bottom. I used broken clinkers (washed in boiling water) for drainage, a little spaghnum moss on top, then broken bits of charcoal and a little bone meal; I put in soil up to the two lower openings then inserted the little plants from the outside. More soil was added up to the next two openings, and two more little plants put in. Again soil was added, and the last plant was put in at the top. As I put in each side plant, I inserted a plastic straw from the top, cut off to reach the plant. I do not know whether this does any good or not, but thought the water would go down faster along the straw. In that way, the top plant would not get so much water. I water a little at the top, and a little at the bottom.

The plants grew unusually fast and sturdy, and it wasn't long before all five plants were in bloom, the different colored blossoms mingling at the top with Blue Boy. The side plants grow almost flat against the jar, as they have no other choice. I see now that I made a mistake in not using smaller varieties. The plants are so large, the jar is completely covered, and I have to remember when to water as I can't see or feel the soil.

It would be attractive to use a larger jar with seven or nine openings but have seen these in the clay pots only. They are not as pretty and probably would not be good for the leaves to rest against the sides in case the moisture came through.



"A Picture Window"

African violets provide freshness and color for the cloudy drab days of Winter. Shown above is an attractive arrangement in the windows of the dining room in the home of Mrs. T. A. Connery, Durham, North Carolina. The four windows cover the entire wall of the room. She has over 100 plants in her collection. Colors in this window are pink, white, purple, red-purple, and shades of blue.

Mrs. Connery waters her Saintpaulia collection in the following way: A cellophane cup, funnel shaped is placed inside the pot (not too near the center or the root of the plant) so that the roots will absorb the water from the improvised cups.

For rooting leaves Mrs. Connery has an attractive well lighted container arrangement above the door in another room.

Facing west -- the windows provide Mrs. Connery's plants with just the right amount of light in winter and with enough shade in the summer to insure a successful all year growing season. Shelves are adjustable and are wide enough to accommodate both large and small specimen plants.

MY FAVORITE PICTURE

Mrs. George A. Kent's beautiful window of African violets at her home in Lansing, Michigan inspired the author to write this poem -- Editor.

I don't mind the winter outside,
With the snow, the wind and the cold.
My violets are in the windows,
With their colors so bright and bold.

The white snow is in the background,
The windows are the frames
For the lovely colors of my violets,
With their many intriguing names.

If there be a heaven where angels tread,
I'm very sure you'll find,
Growing along the garden paths,
African violets of every kind.

Credit for writing the above poem cannot be given at this time because the author's name has been lost —

FOR THE FIRST TIME —

At a Convention Show The

NATIONAL AWARDS

The SILVER CUP to be awarded to the best registered name plant entered in the Convention Show in Chicago.

The AWARD OF MERIT RIBBONS and the HONORABLE MENTION RIBBONS will be awarded to the runner up plants.

Mrs. Parker

Sophia Bakers Questions Answered

Mrs. Baker

By Mary Parker

Q. In a case of crown rot, when leaves show signs of wilting, can roots be cut off and the plant re-rooted in water?

A. Yes, this is easy to do! You do not need to lose your plant if it has crown rot. Trim the old roots off and cut the stalk back to the firm, green portion. Place the stalk in water and when new roots begin to show, plant in peat and vermiculite and treat as you do young leaf cuttings.

Q. In pollinating, do the baby plants take from either parent, and if so which one?

A. I do not know the correct scientific answer to this and so must answer only from my own experience. In self-pollination a majority of the plants were similar to the parent. However anything can happen! My records show that from a cross of Pink Girl on Redhead, about 50% had girl type foliage, others a foliage all their own. Color range of flowers was from pale orchid and blue to deep red and purple. Most interesting!

Q. What is a good fertilizer, other than Hyponex?

A. I have used pulverized sheep or cattle manure, Vigoro, Spoonit, and many others. All are dependable if used carefully and according to directions.

Q. Why does a leaf potted in soil just fill the pot with roots but no new plantlets?

A. Sometimes old leaves are very slow in putting up little plants. It is advisable to use a young vigorous leaf for rooting.

Q. How often should African violets be fed while blooming?

A. About every two weeks a mild application of a good, well balanced fertilizer is beneficial.

Q. Will leaves which have been wiped with alcohol for mealy bugs root, or will that cause them to rot?

A. The alcohol should be applied only to the insect. Have you ever tried Endo-Pest for mealy bugs? I find it very effective.

Q. When leaves were planted in jars with covers they died. Did they steam to death?

A. Possibly they were too moist and the roots rotted. They should not be placed in the sun and should have a little ventilation, especially in hot weather.

Q. Is there a blue violet with a white eye?

A. Yes, I understand there are several -- I do not have any particular variety I can recommend, however.

Q. How many recognized standard varieties of Saintpaulias are there?

A. Oh dear! I would hesitate to say! The number changes rapidly.

Q. To date, which is the rarest and most expensive African violet and what is its name?

A. That depends on individual taste. I am still searching for that elusive, true yellow one, which must be very rare and quite expensive. Seriously there are many lovely new ones being introduced.

Q. Is soil the reason for mealy bugs?

A. No, mealy bugs are spread through contact with an infected plant. Spores may be spread through the air.

Q. Do Saintpaulias need lots of root room?

A. Not necessarily. There is more danger in over-potting than under-potting. I prefer small pots.

Q. In pollenization do they try for specific results, or it is happenstance as in Lady Geneva?

A. There should be some purpose and definite objective in all pollination.

Q. If Lady Geneva blooms the second time without edge, what can be done?

A. I have heard that all buds and blooms should be removed. This may bring back the white edge. A change of exposure might help also, as light may be a very important factor.

Q. What is the best way to plant African violet seed?

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Yearbooks . . .

PICTURED ARE THE THREE PRIZE WINNING YEARBOOKS AT THE DAYTON MEETING LAST YEAR.

FIRST PRIZE — Yearbook of the African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey. This attractive prize winner had a black cover lettered in white ink with a hand painted picture of White Girl on the front cover.

SECOND PRIZE — Greater Akron African Violet Society, Akron, Ohio. A handsome violet cover with a white plastic hinge, white printing and a hand painted picture of Blushing Maiden.

THIRD PRIZE — The Tennessee Valley African Violet Society, Knoxville, Tennessee. A lovely book with violet suede cover and a pale violet design printed on each page. Printing inside in green ink.

Let's Visit

Florence Foltz, Penna.

Traveling on the Lincoln Highway about one mile east of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, tourists from many states have been attracted to the home of Mrs. Paul Dissinger by the intriguing sign, "AFRICAN VIOLETS FOR SALE." Made of wood and attached to a tree, the sign, which was designed by Mrs. Dissinger is painted yellow with two purple blossoms.

Upon entering her spacious living room, one immediately senses that the beautiful plants displayed on the wide window sills were grown by someone with a vast store of knowledge of the Saintpaulia and its particular needs. The double windows of the living room are repeated in the dining room, where more plants are growing. And . . . as in so many of our homes . . . her choice seedlings are growing on the kitchen windows.

Mrs. Dissinger

Lancaster New Era photo

Mrs. Dissinger is truly a pioneer in the Saintpaulia world, having started her collecting more than fifteen years ago. She keeps her own collection in glazed pottery pots of various pastel shades, and waters from the bottom with spring water. She uses woods soil and after experimenting with many different formulas has decided that the only additional ingredient needed is dried cow manure. The soil is sterilized by a unique method which has proven quite satisfactory. The sieved soil is placed in 25 pound lard cans, with a depression left in the top large enough to hold a brick. Mrs. Dissinger heats a brick in the furnace until it is red hot, then with tongs, puts the brick in the depression in the can of soil. The lid is placed on the can, and it is allowed to stand for several days before the soil is used. Once a year she repots her plants; in the meantime they get no plant food, nor any poisonous sprays.

In a room upstairs leaves are rooted and young plants grown for sale. These are grown in clay pots, and usually kept in trays to facilitate watering.

Among Mrs. Dissinger's originations are Crinkles, Blue Monday, Purple Heart and a number of exquisite seedlings. Our very best wishes for continued success go to Fay Dissinger, shown in the accompanying photo with some of her plants.

Left to right Mrs. W. H. Fowkes, president of the First African Violet Society of Chicago, Mrs. Rose Trendler, president of the Elite Society and Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir, president of the Roseonna Society.

CHICAGO ORGANIZED

The dessert luncheon was delicious, the African violets were beautiful and a good time was had by all . . .

Following this afternoon of pleasant visiting and viewing Mrs. W. H. Fowkes collection of plants a group of Chicago ladies who were keenly interested in African violets decided to form a club.

On January 12, 1950 with nine enthusiasts present the first meeting was held and the charter signed. The First African Violet Society of Chicago was now organized and a limit of 24 placed on the membership.

Because interest was keen and Chicago a "big town" it soon became necessary that chapters of the First Society be formed in various sections of the city to meet the growing demand for membership.

On March 7, 1951 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Bornemeir the Roseonna Chapter of the "First African Violet Society of Chicago" was formed. The Elite Chapter was organized on March 9, 1951 at the home of Mrs. Rose Trendler.

Chicago has many active African violet collectors. They are enthusiastic and active in the National Society. Best evidence of which is the Chicago Convention at the Hotel Sherman, April 24, 25 and 26, 1952.

THE AFRICAN VIOLET- A FOLIAGE PLANT?

Mary Mayer, Ill.

Photos by Ed Allen

Mrs. Mayer with a Rosalie growing in a piece of old wood -- made from a piece of tree stump.

Yes, let it be a foliage plant, and a pretty one while you are waiting for blooms.

How to get it to bloom is, indeed, a popular question, but I'll come to that later. Let us take the violet that has no flowers, and see what we can do with foliage alone.

That moment when we see buds, and eventually flowers, is a great thrill, but while waiting and watching, I like to encourage a regular feeding program. Use a complete plant food, and increase your humidity to develop "Beautiful Foliage." I know that many arrangements can be made with foliage plants using ivy or philodendron, so why not give our violet plant a chance? Personally, I never could grow very good ivy or philodendron, but I believe it's because my thoughts are always with the violet.

Choose a balanced food (there are many good ones) and feed regularly; with sufficient light, soon they will come into bloom. Waiting will be much easier if the plant is lovely to look at and a good healthy color. Select light and dark varieties, and girl foliage, as these may be used with colorful pots or figurines, and make a good arrangement. Try it sometime with some of your pet plants.

Note the pictures and see for yourself the beauty of the leaves. If you will notice, one of my stands is an old sewing machine, a large arrangement which was entered in our Woman's Club flower show last summer, and won me a ribbon and a great deal of favorable comment, even from the men folks. I use a pan with moist sand on top where the head of the machine was removed.

I grow my violets in the basement under fluorescent lights, and maintain a regular heat

Basement bench with 40 watt fluorescent light globes.

The sun room where plants are brought from the basement benches shows revolving plant stand and the old sewing machine Mrs. Mayer uses to diplay plants on.

with the furnace -- 72° day, 62° night temperature. I keep them under the lights until just budded, and then bring them upstairs to my sunroom which has north and east exposures, and one side south onto an enclosed porch.

I like to plant new baby plants from cuttings or divisions in the following way. I put broken crockery or charcoal into 2½ inch pots for drainage, then some regular potting soil, then vermiculite to surround the new young roots, and finish with regular potting soil to within one-half inch from top. This gives the tender roots or open areas of divisions a chance to establish themselves in the vermiculite, and the plant is then ready to continue its growth in the same pot, reaching down for the fertile soil below. This saves one operation of transplanting. I find my plants take hold much faster than if put into fertilized soil. Moisten, and keep in shade for a day or two. Do not fertilize these until new growth is seen, and then with a weak solution of New Plant Life, or Hyponex, or similar foods. But do feed regularly for blossoms to be of a high quality.

And now to sum up the things to make this "Beautiful Foliage" Plant Bloom! Give all the light you can, with the increased humidity by placing pots on moist sand, peat, or vermiculite, or even small pebbles, and the feeding of plant food. Do not keep plants too wet, only moist, and let run to the dry side occasionally as roots will try to reach out for moisture. With such care, the plant you worried about not blooming will reward you with flowers. Allow your plants to become pot-bound. Plants in a too large pot take a long time to bloom; they just grow roots. A great many people make this mistake. I seldom use over a 3" pot, except when using larger growing varieties, for picture windows, such as Begonia Blue, Sapphire, or other similar ones and the du Ponts.

My soil mixture is about three parts garden soil, two parts torpedo sand, and one part of either peat, leaf mold, or compost. After this mixture is sterilized, to a gallon of it, I add about 3 cups of commercial cattle manure, 1 cup super-phosphate, and 2 cups of crushed charcoal. For small seedlings, I use the same diluted with one-half of vermiculite.

My plants grow very well in the manner I have described here, and when they are seen by my friends and customers and I am told what "beautiful foliage," I have on my plants -- to a humble violet enthusiast -- "Them's Kind Words Indeed." So good luck to you on more beautiful foliage and good violet growing until the flowers appear.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs

"FLORAL DISEASE" RAMPANT . . . . IN GAINESVILLE HOME

Jane Wilheit, Gainesville (Ga.) Daily Times Sun

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Childs are suffering from a disease for which there seems to be no cure. As a matter of fact the Child's don't even want to recover, even though their disease has already reached advanced stages. They have been bitten by the African violet bug!

And what a giant-sized bug it is. Their home on Mountain View Drive has been almost entirely turned over to Saintpaulias. There is still room left of course to sit, eat and sleep, but their hundreds of violets don't leave much time for any of those things.

The bug took its first nip at Mrs. Childs in 1944 while Mr. Childs was in the Army. Her sister gave her a few leaves from her own collection which was considered quite a representative group then. But 1944 is ancient history as far as African violet culture is concerned. A dozen was considered a collection then, whereas now the Childs have over 200 different varieties, and many times that number of plants.

When Mr. Childs returned from the Army he, too, became affected by the contagious disease and their home life soon began to revolve around their plants.

When the Childs moved to Gainesville two years ago, moving their violets was a big undertaking, and they say the plants are just now recovering from the hardships of the journey.

Great caution was taken however, and many preparations made. The contractor who built their home here, said it was the first time he had ever designed a house to suit African violets. However the sun porch was built with a southeastern exposure for the benefit of the plants, and a huge daylight basement was fixed especially for them. At present the basement is being equipped with fluorescent lights so that the majority of the plants can go "underground" for the hot summer months.

"African violets are not as hard to grow as people think," Mr. Childs says. His own method sounds fool-proof, but he insists that what works for one person does not always work for another.

This is the way he does it. In the bottom of a clay pot (it is important to use an unglazed pot for better drainage) he puts a small piece of peat moss or something similar to cover the hole. On top of that goes an inch layer of vermiculite, and next an inch layer of well-rotted manure. The rest of the container is filled with loose soil, and with from one to two parts of sand or vermiculite depending on the looseness of the soil.

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THE VIOLET BUG

Pearl Kent, Nebr.

A little African violet came to our house one day,
We didn't know much about it, but decided to let it stay.
We put it on the window sill and tended it with care,
And - what do you know - before too long, we had a blossom there.
Now I tend it every morning and I check it every night,
I move it to a better place, where it can get more light,
If you don't want African violets in every little nook,
Crowding you out of house and home, and every where you look,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

Then someone said, break off a leaf and start a plant that way,
I broke it off and cut it short and put it in water that day.
Soon tiny rootlets started, then leaves like rabbit ears.
I looked at it ten times a day, and many were my fears.
I potted it in Terralite and had it growing nicely,
Soon found I had more babies there, many more than I'd thought likely.
Now, if you don't want violets on every chair and table,
Just all that you can care for, or more than you are able,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

My neighbor had a little plant; it's leaves were ruffled, different,
I must have one just like it! So, to a dealer I went.
I bought the plant with ruffled leaves and brought it home with care,
But when I looked more closely, I shouted "O, beware!"
Down in between the leaves I saw a tiny bit of cotton,
I grabbed a swab, got alcohol, the mealy bugs were gotten.
If you don't want to fight the pests to keep your violets healthy,
And to buy medicine enough to have made you wealthy,
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug will get you
If
you
don't
watch
out!

One lady had a seed pod. Now I must try that too,
I crossed Pink Beauty on Blue Girl, it wasn't hard to do.
In about six months the seeds were ripe, a million more or less;
So, I put them up to dry a while, then planted them, as you'd guess.
After waiting weeks, the sprouts appeared, tiny green, and delicate.
Now, for a blossom. O, no, not yet; you wait and wait and wait.
I filled more cans, I bought more pots,
And still more plants, just lots and lots.
The moral of this story is, if you want room to live,
Don't ever let a neighbor in who has a plant to give!
Take my advice — for without a doubt —
The Violet Bug has got me
and
I
can't
get
out!

IS IT POSSIBLE?

Bina Edith R. Owen, Ohio

White Lady, Pink, Fantasy and Midnight Blue
Why can't we produce a yellow violet too?
Be patient my friends, be courageous and steady-
With pistols and stamens get everything ready.
Take a White Princess with blossoms so fine
And scatter on the pollen from a pumpkin vine.
If you succeed and your thumb is green
You surely will be a violet Queen.

Mrs. Fowkes
General chairman

Mrs. Magill
Program chairman

1952 Convention - Chicago, Ill.

APRIL 24 - 26

So that you may get acquainted with the Convention Chairmen in advance -- we are presenting Mary Fowkes the chairman of the Convention and the Program Chairman Ada MaGill to you with a most cordial invitation to each and every member of the Society to attend this the Sixth Annual Meeting on April 24, 25 and 26.

Meetings will be held at the Hotel Sherman. See center pages for full particulars... and do plan now to attend and to exhibit some of your choicest plants in THE SHOW.

THE CHICAGO MEETING WAS PLANNED FOR YOU!

POOR Multiple Crown Plant!

Thelma Delgardo, Kans.

Whenever we see those poor uncomfortable looking multiple crown plants growing just like "Topsy" we feel so sorry for them!

They could have been nice, evenly grown, beautiful single crown show plants, had Master or Mistress not neglected them. Of course, poor things, they cannot help it because suckers form on them, growing this way and that way with a leaf squeezed in here and another squeezed in there, all fighting for their life. Sometimes a lazy or maybe just plain ignorant Master or Mistress, removes these suckers but only after they have become large enough to root and make small plants. Then poor old "Topsy" receives such a shock that she refuses to bloom.

Then we hear the age old excuse for plain neglectfulness. That is, multiple crowns have more blooms than single crown plants. That is far from the truth as we have made a bloom count on single crown plants and we could not wish for more abundant bloom or larger blooms.

A perfectly formed single crown plant requires constant care. We start with the young plantlet by turning it in the window so that it will grow evenly and if necessary spacing the leaves with toothpicks to make them grow as we want them. The plants must be checked regularly for suckers to appear. We look over some of our plants each day and when we see tiny mouse ears so small that we can hardly tell them from buds we remove them with a sharp object. A round, sharp pointed tooth pick is good but wood applicators, that may be purchased at the drug store are better, if we sharpen them to a small point. Young plants that are kept single crown, never allowing the suckers to form, bloom earlier than the young plants that are left to grow multiple crowns. The reason for this is maybe that all their strength goes to forming buds and not for growing sucker plants.

We put small plants that we wish to grow into specimen plants, into 4 inch red clay squatty pots, purchased from the Ceramo Company, Jackson, Missouri, who advertise in the African Violet Magazine. At this writing we have a tiny plant of Lady Loretta, only 4 inches across, blooming for the first time, in one of these four inch pots. The bloom count says 18 flowers and many more buds. Tiny Helen Wilson only 3 inches across is just starting to bloom and has 5 flowers.

Of course we use a good African violet soil formula. We have often been asked where we buy our potting soil, because our plants show they are in good soil. It seems to be the opinion of most violet growers that we buy our soil if our plants are growing well. We use our own soil formula sterilizing it and mixing it by hand so that we are sure it is perfectly blended.

Our soil does not bog down or become hard. It is light and porous, having good drainage qualities and contains everything a violet plant enjoys for its dinner, regardless of the high prices of food.

Plants do not have to become tall and old before blooming abundantly. We have a Double Russian, a young plant, blooming for the first time that has so many flowers it is impossible to count them, as they are so close together. Double Neptune, also in first bloom, is completely covered with large flowers. It also is maturing 3 nice fat seed pods, Double Neptune x Rosie O'Grady, Double Neptune x White Lady and Double Neptune selfed. The 3 seed pods have not slowed down the amount of bloom. We have year old plants, that a bloom count showed forty or more blooms on a plant.

Our Fringettes, which are 2 year old plants were the most breath taking sight for all who saw them in bloom. People who are not violet growers point to the Fringettes saying "I like these best." When counting flowers of the Fringettes we found Mauvette with 66 flowers, Red Lavender 67 flowers, Dark Blue with 63 and Light Blue had 40 blossoms. Pure White is not blooming as we have used all its leaves for propagation. Blue Lavender we lost our old plant and have only young plantlets of it.

Poor old Redhead Girl, she is two years old and so wobbly in her pot that we came near dumping her on the compost pile, as we have young Redhead Girls to take her place. The reason she did not get dumped was leaves down, plantlets and seedlings requiring all of our time.

When we got around to giving Redhead Girl her funeral she was a mass of bloom. We counted seventy-five flowers and she was loaded with buds. The "Girl" was so wobbly in her pot she swayed with the least touch like a graceful dancing ballerina.

No! She did not have crown rot, root rot or nematodes. She had just grown so tall and heavy she was loose in the pot. We gathered some smooth stones about the size of small eggs, sterilized them, then placed them in the pot close to the tall stalk, pressing them into the soil so that they would stay there and hold the plant firmly in an upright position.

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"WE JUMPED OVERBOARD"

Betty Skelton, Pa.

"I didn't dream" -- "hadn't any idea" -- I never thought" -- were snatch phrases I caught as I passed among the spectators at our Trenton Show. Sweet music to my ears! The majority of the people in this area just didn't seem to be interested in African violets. Any effort we put forth was completely ignored except by our members and we couldn't attract many new members at all. Local newspapers would give us little or no publicity, we considered ourselves fortunate when they would print our monthly meeting notice. After contacting one newspaper three months in a row to take a picture of our group for publication, they did send a photographer -- but the picture was never printed! Florists here carry Saintpaulias for holiday trade mostly; one person went to eight shops before she found a single plant she could purchase. African violet lovers are heartsick to see the neglected plants in the shops, anyway, and the florists tell us they cannot grow them properly! No one seemed to want us or our violets.

Naturally, you can understand the skeptical, stunned Club that first heard our plans of the show. The committee felt something had to be done -- SINK OR SWIM! We knew it would mean a great deal of hard work, time, and money, but from it, perhaps, we could show the public what we were doing and how interesting the hobby of raising African violets could be.

In the three years we have been organized, we had only put on one show and that was a small, borrowed space in a department store. From that-to spending $150 rental on a ballroom was enough to stupify any half-strangled club. To cover this expense we sold spaces, 10 x 10, to commercial growers of African violets and to sellers of materials pertaining to the plants. For the latter exhibitors, we stipulated they had to show at least 12 plants in their space.

The ballroom was in the War Memorial Building in Trenton, ideally located for parking facilities and bus service. The room was large, well-lighted, and so beautifully decorated we needed none of the usual artificial props to enhance the setting of our show.

We spent $140 for programs, hundreds of which were sent out by club members prior to the show. Posters were printed and placed in about a 60 mile radius of Trenton. By selling advertising space on the back page of the programs, we covered the expense of them.

A publicity campaign lasted throughout the summer. Articles concerning our club and show were sent periodically to over 20 newspapers. Garden magazines were notified and radio stations contacted.

A high-light of the show was the introduction of a new seedling belonging to Mr. Edgar Harris. The committee chose Mary Wilson, prominent lecturer and T-V Star to be honored by having the violet named for her. She invited Mr. Harris and myself to visit her on her program and at that time, we were given the marvelous opportunity of publicizing our show over television.

Deep appreciation is felt by our club for Mr. Harris, for it was to his untiring efforts that much of the success of our show is credited.

In the articles I wrote, brag -- I'll say I did -- "over 1,000 plants would be displayed." Let me tell you, confidentially, I was worried about that and the very first thing I did when the show opened was to go around and count the plants. My brag turned out to be true for there was well over the mark. In the club entries, we had 309 competitive specimens with 114 varieties. Including commercials, the varieties exceeded 150.

Mrs. J. W. Freed, Mrs. Neil Miller and Mrs. Hagerty Bell did an excellent job on the judging. The 23 sections of the show included color specimens, seedlings, table settings, fancy containers, unusual pottings, novelties, variegated, dwarf, invitation and open classes.

We used three long rows of tables completely covered in white on which to display our entries. Around the sides of the room were the commercial spaces. The Trenton Florist Association rented and decorated the stage with floral arrangments. Near the entrance comfortable chairs borrowed from a store were placed for the viewer's pleasure. Here club hostesses greeted and registered guests, gave out literature pertaining to the National Society and lured spectators into joining our club! Souvenir pins made and donated by club members were sold. Plants raised by club members were brought in and sold in the name and for the club. Hostesses served in shifts of twelve at all times. The show was open from 2 P. M. to 10 P. M. on Thursday, and on Friday, from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M.

Hundreds of people visited our show, and as they left, we could tell we had at last succeeded in passing on to them some of the enthusiasm we find in our fascinating house plants. My father has tolerantly looked and listened African violets -- I'm crazy about my hobby and everybody knows it. My family says I'm beginning to resemble a violet, just can't help myself, I just assume everybody wants to see and hear about them. Anyhow, when he came to the show I knew it was just to humor his eldest, nothing more. But I grabbed on to him and proceeded to show him this bloom, that foliage, these varieties. As we passed down the rows I realized he was really interested in

The fall show of The African Violet Society of Trenton, New Jersey.

what he was seeing, and after my Daddy had seen every single violet in that room (I made sure of that), he turned to me and said, "Sister, you got me. I'm going to knock the wall out of that back room of mine and install windows. I'm going to grow African violets, where can I buy some seeds?" SEEDS -- golly, you could have knocked me over with a bloom, I'm not "seed-struck" yet! Yes Daddy was convinced, African violets were the ideal plants to grow -- from the seed up. That was one convert I know of.

It was a beautiful show. Anyone who saw it will readily agree.

Mr. Edgar Harris was chairman with a very capable committee consisting of Mrs. C. Croll, Mrs. M. Thoburn, Mrs. R. Brennfleck, Mrs. C. Appenzeller and myself, doing the publicity.

To many of you who read this, you will say -- that show wasn't much. True, many of your clubs have put on bigger and better shows and had a larger turnout. Remember, we have been struggling for recognition and this show has been a milestone for us.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lawton started our club thru a personal ad in the newspaper and with three people it was organized. When she saw the show she kept repeating, "It's my dream come true."

For all of us, it was a triumph. We have gained confidence and feel rewarded that at last, others had seen through us, how wonderful African violets are. Just to see Mrs. Lawton bursting with pride at her "baby" was gratifying. She beamed!

It was a tired, over-worked committee at the show's end, but one that was already talking about our next show. We did jump overboard -- but landed right on top of an AFRICAN VIOLET!

AN OLD FASHIONED ROOM

This attractive exhibit was staged by the African Violet Society of the East Bay.

Composed of members in the San Francisco area the Society's striking display emphasized the complete harmony with which African violets and antique furniture compliment each other.

KEEPING UP WITH THE SHOWS

ELGIN HAS TWO EXHIBITS

Two exhibits were given this fall by the combined efforts of the Unique Saintpaulia and the Lady Constance African Violet clubs of Elgin, Illinois.

The first was the very successful participation in the annual Mens Garden Show, held at the Masonic Temple August 25-26, 1951. One side of a large hall was entirely an African violet display. The local paper stated that the violet exhibit "stole the show."

Included in the display was Mrs. Henry Lange's nice collection of 24 large blooming plants, all grown from seeds, all different in shades and color. Mrs. John C. Wills displayed five of her registered seedlings. Each member contributed to the exhibit with the finest plant of her collection. The outstanding honor went to Mrs. Fred Behling who exhibited a lovely Red Bi-Color, having several fertilized seed pods.

Judges for the African Violet Show were Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, and Mrs. Elof E. Carlson of Rockford, Illinois.

The second exhibit was held in the newly constructed Methodist Church of South Elgin. Fire destroyed the original church, and in order to

The African Violet Exhibit really "stole the show" at the ninth annual Elgin Flower Show staged at the Masonic Temple Saturday and Sunday. Pictured against a background of a portion of the violet display are (left to right) Dr. Lloyd C. Blackman, chairman of awards; Hilding Johnson, chairman of judges, and John D. Stewart, president of the sponsoring organization, the Men's Garden Club of Elgin, Inc.

Left to right, Mrs. Fred Behling, president of Unique Club; Mrs. John Wills, show chairman; Mrs. Stanley McBride, president of Lady Constance Club; Mrs. Joseph Winston and Mrs. Albert Marshall.

Elgin Daily Courier — News photos

help finance a new organ, these two clubs cooperated by exhibiting violets and sponsoring a plant sale, which included many potted violet leaves. Lovers of violets kept the five women assigned to the sale plenty busy, and an unbelievably large sum was raised for the fund.

Mrs. Ernest Benson won the award for the largest plant in the show. Blue ribbon winners were Mesdames John C. Wills, D. M. Weed, Ray Neidbert, Reuban Svenson, W. O. Beckner and Fred Behling.

Judges for the show were Mrs. Elof Carlson of Rockford and Mrs. Vida Robbins of Chicago.

Mrs. John C. Wills was chairman for both shows as she is the "Mother" of all violet lovers in this area, and was the organizer of both clubs. Mrs. Fred Behling is president of the Unique Saintpaulia club, and Mrs. Stanley McBride is the president of the Lady Constance.

Akron Beacon Journal photo

Above right, Mrs. Arthur Radtke and Mrs. Frank Oros holding her "Queen of the Show" plant at the 1951 Akron Show.

WINDSOR SAINTPAULIA EXHIBIT

The recently organized Windsor Saintpaulia Society exhibited one hundred and fifty flowering plants in a non-competitive "Violet Booth" at the third annual Essex County Flower Show, held at the Windsor Armories August 24th and 25th. The exhibit included about seventy-five varieties, including Fischer's Fringettes, and Ulery's Rainbow Series. The plants were displayed in three tiers of twenty-foot lengths, covered with pale yellow paper. We were very happy to have been awarded the Labatt Trophy for the best amateur display at the show.

Several of our members also won prizes for plants entered in competition. Mrs. Bud Woodruff won first prize (Silver cup donated by Windsor's Mayor) for Snow Prince, Mrs. Mid Hinton, second for Rainbow Rose, Miss Erma Peppler, third for Dark Beauty. In the class for "blues" Mrs. Mid Hinton, first for Light Blue Fringette, Miss Erma Peppler, second for Ionantha, Mr. Frank Hull, third for Blue Chard. Mrs. Dorothy Reaume and Mrs. Biel of Detroit's "Border Cities Club" acted as judges.

In September about fifty of our plants were displayed at the Leamington Fall Fair, and judging from the interest shown in our display, it is quite evident that a club will be organized in that district very shortly.

Mr. Frank Hull, President of the Windsor Society, receiving the Labatt Trophy awarded for the best all around exhibit at the show from Mrs. A. M. Wellman, convenor of the Essex County Flower Show.

Mrs. Moody and Mrs. Masters

ERWIN TENNESSEE

Introducing all of the "newest varieties" of Saintpaulias to African violet lovers and garden club members of near by towns -- Mrs. J. R. Moody and Mrs. Fain Masters of Erwin, Tennessee held an open house exhibit at the home of Mrs. Moody in September.

Many of the plants shown at the Dayton Convention were on display throughout Mrs. Moody's spacious home. They were shown in containers of antique china and silver -- some were even found growing in grandmother's shoes. Mrs. Master's violet tree covered with mountain moss in which African violets were arranged was an outstanding point of interest.

FORT WAYNE SHOW

On November 1st and 2nd the Neptune Chapter of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, held its first Exhibit at the Public Library. Approximately 800 signed the attendance record. It was a non-competitive show and over 300 plants comprising 100 varieties were shown.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Call For Meeting

Proxy

Ballot

BE SURE TO VOTE

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

CALL FOR MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. will be held on April 26, 1952 at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Illinois, at 2:30 P. M. for the transaction of the following business:

1 - To elect a President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors-at-large. (See following ballot.)

2 - To hear the reports of Officers, Directors and Committees of the Society and to act thereon.

3 - To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

FLOYD L. JOHNSON, President

PROGRAM

Registration will be open Wednesday afternoon in the Lounge.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

8:00 A. M. To 12:00 Noon — Registration ..... Lounge

2:00 P. M. — Convention Convenes ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. W. H. Fowkes, Convention Chairman, Presiding.

Welcome to Chicago by Robert T. Van Tress,
Horticulturist for the Chicago Park District.

"Fundamentals of African Violet Culture,"
John S. Coryall, Assistant Professor of Horticulture, Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kansas.

"The Doctor Diagnosis,"
Mrs. Marie Mooar, instructor of Botany and Pathology, Michigan State College, E. Lansing, Michigan.

Presentation of National President.

5:00 P. M. To 6:00 P. M. — Grand Opening of Exhibits ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

6:30 P. M. — Dinner Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. Ferne Kellar, Presiding.

"Saintpaulia in American Horticulture,"
Dr. W. H. Camp, President of the American Horticultural Council.

"What is New Among African Violets Since We Met A Year Ago?"
(Kodachrome Slides) Mrs. H. J. Sweeney, Xenia, Ohio.

9:00 P. M. To 11:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 A. M. — Registration ..... Lounge

8:00 A. M. To 11:00 A. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

This morning is open for the privilege of getting acquainted with other members, for sightseeing and shopping and to allow extra time for the Exhibit.

10:00 A. M. — Morning Meeting ..... Club Room VII
"How to Go About Organizing Local Chapters," Mrs. Ralph W. Berst, Dayton, Ohio.

12:00 Noon — Luncheon Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Mrs. H. W. Martin, Presiding.

"As I Remember-" Alma Wright, Editor, African Violet Magazine.
"Shall We Hybridize -- How, What and Why?"
Dr. R. Milton Carlton, Director of Research, Vaughn's Seed Company, Chicago, Illinois.

"What is Going on Under Glass?"
(Symposium)
Henry Ten Hagen, Leader, Warsaw, N. Y.
Paul Rockelmann, Fischer's Flowers, Atlantic City, N. J.
Mrs. Merle Hardy, St. Genevieve, Quebec, Canada.
Paul Slough, Ulery's Greenhouses, Springfield, Ohio.

4:30 P. M. To 6:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

6:30 P. M. — Dinner Meeting ..... Bal Tavrin (6th floor)
Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding.

"Speaking of Operations," Montague Free, Staff Horticulturist, The Home Garden.

Presentation of Awards for 1952, Mrs. Z. C. Layson, Maysville, Kentucky, Chairman of Awards Committee.

Reception ..... West Room
Hostesses, First African Violet Society of Chicago, Roseanna Chapter and Elite Chapter.

9:00 P. M. To 11:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 A. M. — Morning Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Boyce M. Edens, Presiding.

"Gardening with Bacteria," Phillip Wells, Fellow Royal Horticultural Society, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

"Panel Discussion of Research Work Thus Far," Henry Peterson, Leader, Cincinnati, Ohio, Chairman Research Committee.
Committe members:
William Carter, Tewkesbury, Mass.
Mrs. T. M. Greer, Golden, Colo.
Neil C. Miller, Penns Grove, N. J.
Evan Roberts, E. Lansing, Mich.

11:00 A. M. To 1:00 P. M. — Exhibit room open ..... Crystal Room
(Open to members only.)

1:30 P. M. — Luncheon Meeting ..... Louis XVI Room
Floyd L. Johnson, President, Presiding.
Annual Business Meeting.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

CONVENTION

SHERMAN HOTEL, CHICAGO, ILL.

APRIL 24, 25, 26, 1952

Registration fee for the entire convention including two luncheon meetings, one dinner meeting and a banquet meeting will be twenty dollars. $20.00

The reception will be given for the members with the compliments of the three Chicago Clubs.

Please send your reservations as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the entire convention, please check below the meetings you will attend. We MUST know definitely how many to prepare for.

_____Thursday Dinner Meeting $5.50

_____Friday Luncheon Meeting $4.25

_____Friday Banquet Meeting
Members (Husband and Wife) Each $6.00
GUESTS $6.00

_____Friday Nite Reception

_____Saturday Luncheon Meeting $4.25

SIGN and send your meeting reservations **not later** than Monday April 14th, 1952, to the Reservations Chairman:

MRS. ERNEST R. PFOFF
6200 MANDELL AVENUE
CHICAGO 30, ILLINOIS

We suggest that you make your hotel reservations early, so that the hotel can confirm your reservation.

SPECIAL MENU NOTICE

The management of the Sherman Hotel requests that if fish is desired for Friday meals that you please check the enclosure and mail it in to Mrs. Pfoff along with your reservation.

☐ Fish for Luncheon Meeting, Friday noon.

☐ Fish for Dinner Meeting, Friday night.

☐ Special Diabetic Meals.

Name _____

Address _____

RULES FOR EXHIBIT AND YEAR BOOKS

1. Open to all commercial, wholesale, retail and amateur growers, who are members of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. Viewing or exhibiting in show may be gained by registration card only.

2. Entries will be received for Commercial Growers in the Club Room No. 1 and the Amateur Growers will be received in the Jade Room on the First Floor of the Hotel Sherman, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. on Wednesday the 23rd of April, 1952 and between the hours of 8 A. M. and 11 A. M. on Thursday the 24th of April, 1952.

3. Entries may not be removed until 2 P. M. Saturday, April 26th. All entries must be removed by 4:30 P. M. Saturday, April, 26th.

4. Exhibitors will furnish all placards and printed material pertaining to their exhibit.

5. The Silver Cup of The African Violet Society of America will be awarded to the best registered name plant, Award of Merit Ribbon and Honorable Mention Ribbon will be the awards to the runners up in this class. The above awards are given by the National Society to any members of the N. A. V. S. Inc. Special gold ribbon will be awarded for the best collection of 3 registered named plants -- this award is given by the Chicago Societies only to a member that belongs to a club affiliated with the N. A. V. S. Inc. One purple ribbon will be awarded for the best Year Book. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded to runners up. One gold ribbon will be awarded for the best Club Project and Educational Class, entered by invitation only. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded to runner up projects. One purple ribbon will be awarded to the best seedling plant, grown by an amateur, and never before shown at a National Convention Show. Blue, red and yellow ribbons will be awarded for all other classes.

6. Decision of the judges will be final.

7. Care will be exercised in safeguarding all exhibits, but no responsibility will be assumed for loss or damage. The Exhibition Room will be locked at all times, except during the hours of show, at which time numerous attendants will be on duty.

8. Reasonable care will be exercised in barring diseased plants, but no responsibility will be assumed.

9. For Commercial Growers — First, second and third ribbons will be awarded in both "A" and "B" classes.

   (A) Seedlings, actually hybridized by exhibitor or released rights given exhibitor and not previously exhibited or judged.

   (B) Sports or Mutants, to have been discovered by exhibitor or persons connected with business. Not previously exhibited or judged.

10. Plants will be sold by Commercial Growers only during the time the Exhibition Room will be open.

CLASSES

Class 1. YEAR BOOKS
Class 2. EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS
(By invitation only)
Section 1. Plant Propagation
Section 2. Soil and Plant Foods
Section 3. Arrangements
Class 3. SEEDLINGS
Class 4. PURPLES
Class 5. WHITES
Class 6. DOUBLES
Class 7. PINKS
Class 8. GIRLS
Class 9. ORCHIDS and BICOLORS
Class 10. COLLECTIONS — THREE DIFFERENT VARIETIES
Class 11. BLUES
Class 12. DUPONTS — AMAZONS — SUPREMES
Class 13. UNUSUAL CONTAINERS
Class 14. CLUB PROJECTS (By invitation only)
Class 15. COMMERCIAL GROWERS
(a) Seedlings
(b) Sports or Mutants
Class 16. REDS

AWARDS

NATIONAL AWARD —Given by A. V. S. A. Inc. ..... Silver Cup
2nd Prize " " " ..... Award of Merit Ribbon
3rd Prize " " " ..... Honorable Mention Ribbon
(See page 17 this magazine.)

MEMBERS MAKING ENTRIES IN Class 10 **MUST BELONG TO** an Affiliated Club
Best Collection of 3 plants ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Best Collection of 3 plants ..... Purple Ribbon

YEAR BOOKS ..... Purple Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

CLUB PROJECTS ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT ..... Gold Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon

BEST GROWN SEEDLINGS ..... Purple Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

ALL OTHER CLASSES — 1st Prize ..... Blue Ribbon
2nd Prize ..... Red Ribbon
3rd Prize ..... White Ribbon
Honorable Mention ..... Yellow Ribbon

FOR COMMERCIAL GROWERS — First, second and third ribbons will be awarded in both "A" and "B" classes.

African Violet Society of America, Inc.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

All requests for hotel accommodations for the African Violet Society of America's Annual Meeting should be made to the Hotel Sherman.

HOTEL SHERMAN
RANDOLPH AND CLARK STREETS
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Please reserve the following hotel accommodations for my party in the name of

_____

Address _____

Please indicate the number and type of each room requested. Guest rates are

_____Single room from $4.95 $5.95 $6.95 $7.95 $8.95 $9.95

_____Double bedroom for two persons from $7.95 $8.95 $9.95 $10.95 $11.95 $12.95 $13.95

_____Twin Bedded room from $10.95 $11.95 $12.95 $13.95 $14.95

Two rooms, connecting bath between

_____For 2 persons from $11.90 $13.90

_____For 3 persons from $14.90 $16.90

_____For 4 persons from $17.90 $19.90

The Hotel Sherman cannot guarantee any specific rate, but will attempt to assign accommodations requested.

THE REPORT of the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The members of the Nominating Committee respectfully submit the following list of members as candidates for office to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, Saturday April 26, 1952.

- ☐ For President ..... Floyd L. Johnson, N. Y.
- ☐ For 1st Vice President ..... Mrs. W. P. Dahnke, Kan.
- ☐ For 2nd Vice-President ..... Mrs. E. G. Magill, Ill.
- ☐ For Recording Secretary ..... Mrs. H. W. Martin, Nebr.
- ☐ For Membership Secretary ..... Mrs. Joseph Hodan, Ohio
- ☐ For Corresponding Secretary ..... Mrs. George R. Klewe, Ohio
- ☐ Treasurer ..... Boyce M. Edens, Ga.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Vote for 4)

- ☐ Mrs. Claude Greeley, Ill.
- ☐ Mrs. Harry Moeller, Ohio
- ☐ Mrs. Maurine Bush, Colo.
- ☐ Mrs. M. Merle Hardy, Canada

PROXY FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Please be sure and sign this proxy in order to make your mail ballot legal in accordance with Article V, Section 10 of the By-Laws of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

I, _____

of _____ in the state of _____

hereby appoint the Proxy Committee consisting of Ferne Kellar, Myrtle Radtke and Alma Wright, my proxy; with full power of substitution to vote for me at the Annual Business Meeting of the African Violet Society of America, Inc. in Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday, April 26, 1952, as fully as I could if personally present.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 1952.

Signature _____

Proxy ballots close at 12:00 noon April 1, 1952.
please mail proxy to:

FERNE V. KELLAR
1223 E. OAK PARK
DES MOINES, IOWA

Left to right, Mrs. A. H. Nahrwald, Mrs. Paul Berg and Mrs. S. S. Schaberg working on plants for the exhibit.

The plants were displayed on tables with many unusual individual arrangements. There were several displays on Lazy Susans and others of various shape arranged in tiers to show the plants to their best advantage. There was a very excellent demonstration of propagation methods including seedlings in various stages of growth. One table was devoted to literature, different types of plant foods and containers.

Members were on hand to talk to the interested persons who attended the Exhibit and visitors given a chance to register their desire to join a club. From the response, it is hoped that more clubs may be formed in Ft. Wayne. There are twenty five members in the Neptune Chapter which was organized two years ago.

Mrs. S. S. Schaberg was general chairman of the Exhibit. Assisting her was Mrs. Wm. Sanders, chairman of the hostess committee, Mrs. A. H. Narhwald, chairman of staging and scheduling, Mrs. Chas. Merz. chairman of properties, Mrs. Carl Rachewig, chairman of registration, Mrs. Albert Schoenfelt, chairman of classification and Mrs. Paul Berg chairman of publicity.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the very furthermost corner of the United States in the State of Washington in the city of Bellingham, there is one more collector and grower of African violets . . . Ruth Doxsee. Bellingham is a scenic spot with her many parks, a view over the Puget Sound and the famous San Juan Islands, and snow capped Mt. Baker to visit for winter sports. Violet enthusiasts going through to Vancouver, British Columbia (75 miles away) stop invariably to see the violets as Ruth is just off Highway 99.

Each year the garden clubs in the city of Bellingham and surrounding communities have a beautiful flower show. Last spring they chose for their theme "Flower Fair." Mrs. Doxsee was urged to show some of her collection of violets in a display using this theme idea.

A six foot plot was selected that had a framed inset in the background. The 12 inch frame was painted a brick red. By using bricks for the base enclosure, damp peat moss, and clay pots entirely, there was the uniformity of the brick color. The background was painted an ice

Mrs. Doxsee's exhibit, below.

green. Ivies in wall brackets softened the arrangement of the three shelves of violets. With a spotlight placed in the upper left hand side to throw more light on the exhibit, it brought out the colors of the violets and threw the shadows from the ivies. The violets had just begun their spring bloom so were not in full blossom.

Not knowing that any of the commercial exhibits were to be judged, Mrs. Doxsee was surprised to find a blue ribbon on the exhibit.

ST. CATHERINES ONTARIO

The Garden City African Violet Society of St. Catherines, Ontario, was formed September 20, 1950, at the home of Mrs. F. A. Campbell who was then made president. The club boasts of a membership of twenty-one and hold their monthly meetings in the members' homes.

In May 1951, a very successful tea and display of violets was held at the home of Mrs. E. Moir. The violets were artistically arranged on a tiered platform in front of the fireplace and on tables on each side. They were also arranged at advantageous nooks about the home and formed a beautiful center for the tea table. Several plants were given as door prizes to the guests.

The following officers were elected for 1951-1952:

President,	Mrs. F. A. Campbell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. W. H. Irvine
Secretary,	Mrs. B. F. Easton
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. Moir

Plants were displayed on this tiered platform before the fireplace.

REGIONAL COUNCILORS - 1952

REGION # 1 - Miss Harriet F. Lawton
20 Edgewood Ave.
Longmeadow, Mass.

REGION # 2 - Mrs. Walter Sillers
619 Fourth Avenue
Altoona, Pa.

REGION # 3 - Mrs. James B. Carey
706 Garden Avenue
Fountain City, Tenn.

REGION # 4 - Mrs. Dale Ferrall
Route 5 - Box 510
Battle Creek, Mich.

REGION # 5 - Mrs. Jacobus Kruyne
856 East Birch Avenue
Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin

REGION # 6 - Mrs. H. R. Logan
1335 Wayne Avenue
Topeka, Kansas

REGION # 7 - Mrs. Cliff Wheeler
2132 Denison Street
Muskogee, Okla.

REGION # 8 - Mrs. Theo M. Greer
1822 Arapahoe Street
Golden, Colo.

REGION # 9 - Mrs. Luella Chipman
Box 333
Lodge Grass, Montana

REGION # 10 - Mrs. J. E. Mackey
616 Pine Street
Alhambra, Calif.

REGION # 11 - Mrs. D. A. Marshall
45 Winthrop Avenue
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

We seem to have a lot of idiosyncrasies (what a word) this month.

Susan Reingans got upside-down baby plants in the bottom of the pot when she planted a leaf. That was really something. I saw a similar oddity at one of our Flower Shows several years ago. There was a glazed pot with saucer attached and a small opening for drainage where the pot was fastened to the saucer. There was no plant on the top, but an African violet in bloom was growing out of the little hole at the bottom. The lady who had it said she had no idea how it grew that way.

Mrs. Lamach has a "Blue Bird" with flower stems growing one on top of the other. I believe it must be natural for Saintpaulias to do out of the ordinary things. I have a "Blue Bird" on which a number of the flowers are just like "Star Sapphire." I am trying to root one of these flower stems to see what I'll get.

Mrs. Lamach's "Ruffles" is getting little plantlets on the end of the flower stems which seems to be a characteristic of this plant. These are called hanging baskets and if left on will blossom -- as she says hers are doing.

I'd say Mrs. Lines has a sport from her Viking leaf as one of her little plants has light orchid blossoms.

I have had inquiries as to the best way to pollinate blossoms. There are several ways to do this. Just can't say which is best but I will tell you how I like to do it.

After I decide on the two plants I wish to cross and put them on the table before me -- I generally pick the one with the better foliage for the mother plant -- I take off a mature blossom from the other plant -- one that has been bloomed out at least four days. Then I cut open the yellow anthers with a sharp knife and pick out the pollen on the end of a tooth pick. I touch it gently to the stigma (the tip end of the little projection coming out the center of the blossom near the anthers) of a fully matured blossom on the mother plant. Be sure the pollen adheres to the stigma. If the cross takes, the flower on the mother plant should drop off in a few days, and soon you will notice the ovary (which will be the seed pod) enlarging. When it is ripe the stem and pod will dry up, and is ready to be picked off. When making the cross you should write the date and name of the violet used for crossing on a little piece of paper and fasten to the flower stem on the mother plant. This is for your future record and also as a reminder not to pick off the little seed pod.

QUESTIONS

Everyone who writes about African violets, says they need humidity but no one says how much. I would like to know the proper humidity.

Mrs. Neal J. Bellardo, N. Y.

About six weeks ago I rooted a number of African violet leaves, each of which produced a healthy root system. I planted them in small pots and all except one has baby plants. This one sloughed off a couple weeks ago and the leaf rotted. I took it off and set the pot under the sink. Yesterday I got out this pot of dried dirt with the idea of dumping it and in trying to loosen the soil I noticed a rather hard lump in the bottom of the pot. I rapped on the pot to loosen the soil and out came a bunch of violet shoots, about twenty-five, bleached as white as snow, and growing upside down in the pot. Now, I'm wondering what caused this upside down growth. I repotted it in new soil setting it upright as it should be, and it now stands straight as a soldier. I have rooted at least fifty leaves but this is the first upside down affair. Have you a reason for it?

Susan G. Reingans, Wis.

Will you kindly let me know if my African violets will live indefinitely in Black Magic? I have been bothered a long while with black and white mites and I have used two bottles of N. N. O. R. but still have mites on some plants. My next step was to transfer them into Black Magic Soil. Now my problem is, will they live indefinitely on it or just for a year or so?

Mrs. Daisy Olson, Calif.

I have a Blue Bird plant that has been blooming with a double blossom stem -- that is, one stem comes out in the usual way and in a short time, another stem comes out just below the first one, from the very same space on the main crown. This second stem doesn't produce as large a flower cluster and doesn't quite reach the same length but the flowers are just as nice. None of my other plants have ever performed this way and am wondering if this is usual for Blue Bird.

On my Ruffles, when each flower stem comes out there is a small regular plant and the flower stem comes right out the little plant and on the end of the stem where the blossom comes out there are four little leaves. I started to remove the little plantlet, when I noticed the blossom stem forming in the middle of it. Is this a characteristic of Ruffles or just a freak way of growing for this plant?

Mrs. Theo Lamach, Mont.

Sometime ago I started a Viking leaf that had been given to me. I put it in a small pot and grew two little plants. They both had buds but when the first one bloomed, the blossom was a light orchid so decided it wasn't a Viking leaf after all that had been given to me. However when the second little plant bloomed it was a true Viking blossom so now I have two plants in the same pot with entirely different blossoms.

Mrs. J. R. Lines, Iowa

I am having "double trouble" with my African violets. First of all I discovered I had Cyclamen mites. I dipped them in N. N. O. R. solution. Now I have something else -- I am very suspicious of nematodes. There is a small worm working on the roots of my plants. This worm is white or light grey with a brown head, and possibly some brown on its back. Can you tell me what this is?

I have raised violets for nine years and never had any kind of trouble before so am at a loss to know what to do for them. Seems like every one here is having the same trouble.

Mrs. Frank Hempker, Ohio

Are African violet leaves that curl under a sign of abnormality or disease? If so what causes should be considered in addition to broad mite, and what treatment other than dusting with sulphur? I find these under-curling leaves quite consistently in my Mentor Boy group, and to some extent in my other varieties. Since I have so many of these curled leaves and since the literature makes so little mention of them I am wondering if they represent a tendency that is more normal than abnormal, or perhaps a condition that can be remedied by improvement in lighting, watering or feeding.

By curling leaves I do not mean when they curl down over the edge of the pot, but the leaves curl or cup down around the edge even tho the plant may be upright.

Another thing, when leaves lose color or turn yellow without losing any of their firmness, are they merely aging normally or does this change imply some problem in metabolism which can be corrected?

Miss Winifred W. Arrington, N. Y.

My violet plants are simply covered with tiny white insects. By using a magnifying glass they look like tiny flies although I've never seen them fly. Can you tell me how to get rid of these?

Mamie Morton, Ill.

A friend of mine tipped over a plant. The leaves were not broken but were bruised, and now have become variegated. Could this be caused from being bruised?

Mrs. David Ross, Ohio

ANSWERS

Tiny White Flies

To Mamie Morton, Ill.

I, too, had these tiny white flies, and got rid of them by spraying with Volck solution.

Mrs. J. A. Olson, Iowa

Drooping Leaves

To Mrs. J. C. Backus, Tenn.

Practically all African violets naturally droop some. There are a few varieties, mostly of the Girl family, that seem to want to grow more or less upright. But all long petiole violets will tend to droop as they mature. Young plants will hold their leaves up in the air but as they mature and the petioles get longer and the leaves get larger, there is more and more tendency to droop. If the plant gets dry enough to wilt, when the plant is watered, and the leaves revive, they practically never go all the way back to where they were before. A paste board collar supporting the leaves in an upright position for a couple of weeks can correct this condition when it is caused simply by a previous wilting.

I believe that plenty of light has a tendency to cause the plant to spread out, and the leaves to droop. There is a range of light intensity -- minimum light (around six or eight hundred foot candles) giving beautiful dark green foliage but few flowers -- and a maximum light (a thousand to twelve hundred foot candles) that gives plenty of bloom but poor foliage. In my opinion, when you are working with light on the lower intensity part of the allowable light range, your leaves will not have so much of a tendency to droop as they will if you are working near the upper limit. Proof of this is that, in general, people who complain about drooping leaves usually have plenty of bloom, while those who do not have this trouble often complain about the scarcity of their flowers.

Then there is this small pot situation. Put a big plant in a small pot, and the leaves will droop sure as shooting. I am a "big-pot" man myself and I say that most mature, fully grown, well developed Saintpaulias need a six inch pot. If you don't shift plants from a four inch pot when they need it you are going to have badly drooping leaves.

I do not object too much to drooping leaves in some varieties (Blue Warrior for example). The drooping leaves, like gleaming dark green shingles on a roof, make up a good part of the attraction of the variety.

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Picking off Flower Stems

To Mrs. Irwin Jackson, Pa.

I have done a lot of experimenting on my African violets to see what difference taking off stems makes on the plants. I find if you leave the stem on until it is shrivelled and brown it comes off easily because when it is held to the plant it is dried and healed, and the plant does not bleed. If taken off before this, a lot of juice runs off, and plant may not be as strong.

Some plant leaves droop down because they are heavy -- and some from too much watering or too little, others because it is their natural way to grow.

Helen D. Burchell, Mich.

As to taking off the flower stems when the flowers have all drooped, this does not harm your plant. We grow our plants for their beauty, and a lot of dead stems doesn't add to their

attraction, in fact it spoils the appearance of the plant. Another thing, in my opinion, you get more blossoms when the dead stems are kept picked off as they take some of the nourishment from the plant. On some of our out door plants if you don't keep the old flower stems picked off they will stop blooming, which may work the same way on violets.

H. A. Hunt, Iowa

Starting Leaves

To Aileen Bell, Kansas

I start leaves in Vermiculite or soil mixture, and it has been my experience that if the leaves, or rather the stems are planted too deep, it takes much longer to get livable plants, and sometimes they never come. I suggest not more than one-half inch of the stem be inserted in your mixture. I also find the shorter the stem, the quicker I get little plants.

Mrs. M. L. Morton, Calif.

Curling Leaves

To Miss Winifred Arrington, N. Y.

The usual cause of leaves curling on African violets is too low a temperature -- under 65° at night.

E. C. Volz, Prof. of Horticulture, Iowa State College

Worms in the Soil

To Mrs. Frank Hempker. Ohio

The small white or gray worms in the African violet soil are probably the larvae of the fungus gnat. They are harmless and are usually found in pots containing a high content of organic matter upon which they feed. Sterilizing the soil with heat takes care of the situation at potting time. On growing plants I can only suggest a formula recommended by Illinois Entomologists. They had success in controlling these tiny maggots by watering the soil with a solution made by dissolving 2 tablets (7.3 grains each of corrosive sublimate (mercuric chloride) in a quart of water. Use a small quantity of hot water to dissolve the tablets and then dilute to required strength. Use glass or earthenware container as the corrosive sublimate will corrode metals. It is also claimed that tobacco dust containing at least 1% nicotine is effective when worked into the soil.

E. C. Volz

Sodium Selenate

To Alice Tilton Thorne, Juneau, Alaska

It certainly would be injurious to eat any part of a plant treated with Sodium Selenate as it is a dangerous poison.

E. C. Volz

I know Sodium Selenate is a dangerous poison and while I do not recommend it for anyone else -- try as I will I cannot keep our little cocker Cinderella from eating a stray blossom or broken leaf -- now and then. I was most worried the first time this happened two years ago. My plants are loaded with selenate.

Margaret Travis, Tenn.

Lack of Blossoms

To Mrs. Bruce Fineout, Mich.

If your violets came from a reliable greenhouse or person who grows good stock, and were blooming when you purchased them, it would seem the cause for their not continuing to bloom would be something wrong that you are doing. Possibly too heavy feeding. -- Try your plant in a north window on a stand with no curtain at the window. Water with one-half teaspoon superphosphate in one quart of warm water -- and one-fourth teaspoon of Marvel Plant Food in some water. Water only when leaves limp just a little or the soil is barely damp. The doubles need a lot of feeding to make them bloom.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

Small Plants

To Mrs. Hugh C. McInally, Mich.

If your plants are the kind that are supposed to grow large, you can't keep them small. If you set plants back out of the light you won't get any blooms and not very good plants. To have a good plant, large or small, you must have lots of light but not direct sun. A north window is fine, no protection is needed. If you want small plants try Old Lou, Rosette Red, Violet Baby or some of the other dwarf varieties.

Helen L. Burchell, Mich.

When I started raising African violets, I had plenty of room for them, and as they grew larger I kept shifting to larger pots, and the plants kept growing larger, and seemed never to quit blooming. Now I am so crowded I don't have space for so many large pots so leave them in the smaller pots as long as possible. If the soil is good and you feed them well, they should bloom for quite some time in the smaller pots.

If your plants don't get enough light, they will grow spindly and will not bloom. My favorite window is the east one, and my plants get the early morning sun which they like.

Mrs. H. A. Hunt, Iowa

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WHEN IN NORTHWEST ARKANSAS — VISIT OUR VIOLET GREENHOUSES

Signs of The Zodiac 1952

Charlotte Hughes, W. Va.

January,	17-18-19	July,	1-27-28
February,	14-15	August,	23-24
March,	12-13	September,	19-20
April,	8-9	October,	23-24
May,	6-7	November,	13-14
June,	2-3 29-30	December,	10-11

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"FLORAL DISEASE" RAMPANT

Cont. from page 24

Violets need plenty of light but no direct sun he believes. He also thinks that too much water will rot away the roots and that plants should be kept damp but not soggy. A temperature of from 70 to 72 degrees he considers ideal.

Concerning fertilizer -- they say "Don't think you can beat the experts." There are numerous commercial fertilizers especially prepared for African violets, and these should be used exactly by the instructions. A dose of superphosphate will push the blooms, but will do nothing for the foliage. Another "trick of the trade" that the Childs use is the addition of a vitamin B tablet to the water after a plant has been moved to help it recover from the shock.

The Childs go in for cross-pollination too, and the seedlings that result are watched with as much excitement as a six year lad shows over a birthday package.

But seedlings are not the principal method used for increasing the number of plants. The Childs more frequently cut a leaf from a plant and propagate it in vermiculite or rotten sawdust. Tiny plants originate at the base of the leaf in record time and are carefully lifted out and planted. The leaf stays on and continues to grow and to produce new plants.

Mr. and Mrs. Childs enjoy their African violets and their African violet friends as . . . talking African violets and swapping leaves with other sufferers are two of the pleasantest symptoms of this disease.

CONVENTION VISITORS

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INVESTIGATE THE WATER SUPPLY

Ida Stone, Calif.

Are you losing plants without apparent cause? If so you might investigate your water supply!

In California, we have an alkaline soil and our city water comes either from artesian wells or the Colorado River.

Three or four times a year chlorine in its gaseous form is used by our cities to sterilize and purify the water.

Since water from the Colorado River is very alkaline, a residue is left when chlorine is used as a purifying agent. The well waters have different minerals too, and when chlorine is used as a purifying agent another form of salts is found. Plant life suffers because of these salts produced in the water supply.

To test the strength of chlorine present in your city water, use 7 drops of silver nitrate to a glass of water. If chlorine is present it will become cloudy.

Early this past spring, my "Royal Sunset" apparently suffered from "salts burn" from our water. Its leaves were dark and drooping -- similar to a plant that has been touched with frost.

At first I did not know what to do. I thought it was a clean plant free from bugs of any kind. Then I remembered a recent lecture on Camellias I had attended where information on the dangers of salts in soil and water was given. I decided to do some testing of my water supply.

I noticed that the lower part of the pot my plant was growing in was coated with a white gummy substance. I decided that this was produced by salts of some variety that were being deposited in the soil and on the pot as I watered my plants.

Repotting seemed necessary -- as much of the soil as possible was removed and the violet repotted in sterilized soil. Soon it perked up and some of the original color returned to the leaves. Because the injury was of long standing, a number of the damaged leaves had to be removed.

Now I water with rain water, as it is Nature's own and the best for all plants. I also keep a close watch for the white formation as a sign to change the pots and soil in which my African violets are growing.

Roigina

Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PIGEON EDITOR

Dear Pigeon Members:

I would like to thank you all for the hundreds of greetings that came to me during this holiday season. Being unable to thank you personally, may I thank you all through my column. It is most gratifying to know one's small efforts are appreciated.

Almost a year has rolled around since becoming your Homing Pigeon Editor. I hope you have enjoyed my column as much as I have bringing it to you. A great big thanks to you all for your hints and help. Many of you have sent me hints that have been used before -- so could not be used again. Thanks anyway and keep them coming.

May I share with you some arrangements I have used during the 1951 holiday season? I have had many compliments during the past few days from guests who have admired my dining room table. I have a number of chicken feeders ranging from 18 inches to 42 inches. These are bought painted a dark green. The one I used on my dining room table is 42 inches long. In this were placed 8 Snow Girl plants which had been removed from their pots. In fact, this particular feeder was planted in November for just this purpose. At Christmas time, they were in full bloom. The table was covered with a red burlap cloth. Down the center of the table was placed a foot wide base of cedar boughs. The feeder of white violets was placed on this and small red ball ornaments were tucked here and there among

HELEN POCHUREK

14225 McCracken Rd.,

Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

the greenery. At either end a nice, fat, white candle was placed in the cedar. A green cloth with the same feeder and red ornaments would also have been lovely. I have several feeders that I use in this way. One contains pink and blue African violets and another is a mixture of a dozen different varieties. This particular pan was one in which I placed suckers as I removed them from plants, so it contains a variety of color. I have used this feeder on a gray cloth with Philodendron to soften the container.

On an end table, I have a white pottery Madonna in which I have placed several sprays of juniper with it's blue berries and nice curves. At the base, there is a Blue Moon plant that has been in the window and allowed to grow in a fan shape. The pot is almost hidden, tho' wrapped in a blue foil. With this I have used a fat, square, white candle.

And so to the hints—

I found it difficult to regulate the amount of water my tiny plants received. They were usually drowned with water. I melted paraffin in a small watering can and allowed it to run through the spout. This partially closed the spout and gave just the right size stream for my tiny plants.

Dorothy Felgar, Austin, Texas

Use a glass meat baster when you water or fertilize tiny seedlings from the top. You can get the water just where you want it.

John Stebbins, Bangor, Mich.

A new stunt for shipping leaves. Cut leaves 3 hours ahead. Let stand in water to firm up well. Remove and allow to dry off a bit. Dip ends about one-half inch in melted wax that has cooled but not congealed. Wrap in wax paper for shipping.

John Stebbins, Bangor, Mich.

Use very little nitrogen fertilizer on variegated leaf plants. Use very little fertilizer of any kind during the first period of growth. If too much nitrogen is in the soil, the variegation may disappear and the plant will revert to plain green.

Mrs. Paula Hoisington, Dodge City, Kansas

I made a miniature greenhouse that works just fine. I took a fish aquarium, 10 x 18 inches, spread and inch of vermiculite on the bottom and soaked this with very hot water. Using very small pots -- 45 fitted in just fine. I planted a leaf in each pot, supported by a label. Then a thermometer was placed inside and a glass cover on top. I placed a small pillow on the table (what no embroidered sheets? -- your Editor) put my heating pad on pillow and covered all with a cloth. On this went the aquarium. The tempera-

GLADYS CANNER

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Herkimer, N. Y.

Homing Pigeon

Membership Manager

If you wish to join a group, or if you wish to withdraw from one, please communicate with Mrs. Canner.

ture was set for high and when the thermometer reached 80, the heat was turned down to low. I find it keeps an even temperature and plants will develop in a very short time. This is also a fine way to start seedlings of violets or begonias, discarding the pot idea and planting seed in a good soil mixture.

Thelma Delgardo, Junction City, Kansas

I paint the rims of my pots with clear shellac to prevent petiole rot. I find this works much better than waxing them.

Joe Schultz, Kirkwood, Mo., Unit 24

Joe Schultz also reports on a schedule for growing seeds. A Robin friend plants seed in early winter, so that little space is occupied by the seedlings during the winter. By spring the seedlings are just about large enough to go into small pots. They are then set outside in flats containing either peat or sphagnum moss to hold moisture and humidity. They grow and bloom outside during the summer, where they have a lot of room. Towards fall, they are culled and only the best are brought into the house for further growing. The others make nice gifts to shut-ins and hospitals.

I have a large, round aquarium that travels with me when visiting violet friends. It is filled with sharp, dampened sand and has a glass cover. I place leaves in it that I am sharing with friends along the way. Any new varieties I may receive also go into it. This is fine for cuttings of any kind, not just violets. Cuttings will stay crisp and fresh during hundreds of miles of traveling. I keep mine on the floor, back of the front seat, so that sun will not reach it and make it too hot.

Hazel Lamarr, Cheverly, Maryland

A few hints from your Editor—

Do you take advantage of the lights in your living room? On a table or desk that holds a reading lamp, place some of your African violet plants each night as you turn on the lights. They will reward you with earlier bloom and nice foliage. Place them back in the window during the day. Sure, it's a bother -- but where is the violet grower who cares about that?

When dividing large size plants, I put a layer of sphagnum moss over the soil after re-potting. I sprinkle them well and place under fluorescent light. The water evaporation will keep a constant humidity about the plants. I have transplanted plants that are quite large and with this method have lost very few of the larger leaves.

Have any of you made hanging baskets with Saintpaulias? I have several. I use the regular wire basket that is used for hanging plants and line it with carpet moss, using the green part for the outside. Then, I fill the basket with dampened sphagnum moss. I plant a large plant in the center (I knock off most of the soil) and place smaller plants around the sides to the outside of the basket. They grow like wild in these baskets. I have several hanging in the greenhouse that are very pretty. If they were growing in the house, I would dunk the entire basket in a bucket of warm water, hang it over a sink to drain and then replace where wanted. In the greenhouse, I just spray with the hose.

Plants with 'spooning' leaves require more light than the average plant. Fairy Boats will have a flat leaf in subdued light, while in bright light, it will almost meet in the center.

Oliver Pease, Akron, Ohio

Perlite must be watered very often when it is used as a rooting medium. In fact, it dries out all too quickly and for that reason, has to be watered almost daily. I find that peat moss mixed with it, will help to hold the moisture in. Leaves rooting in Perlite cannot be pulled out of it for a "look see" as with vermiculite. It is much better to use a small spoon as a scoop and lift them out in that way. Just as soon as roots form, I try to get them into a good soil mixture, retaining all the Perlite that hangs to the roots.

Your Editor

"For The Best in Saintpaulias"

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DOROTHY YOUNG

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LOCAL AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION

African Violet Society of America's Officers and Board of Directors regard, with sincere favor and appreciation, the fine achievements of Local African Violet Societies and Clubs in every part of our great Country. There has been and continues to be an increasing desire upon the part of our membership, generally, for local violet societies and clubs they helped to organize and that they are members of to become affiliated with their very own African Violet Society of America, Inc. In recognition of this growing desire everywhere, and also as a means of helping to establish closer relationship with our members and their local interests, the Board approved the following conditions of Local Chapter Affiliation with African Violet Society of America, Inc. during the Fifth Annual Convention of the Society held in Dayton, Ohio, April 26-28, 1951.

CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION

Affiliated Chapters may be organized in any town, village, city or county in the United States, Dominion of Canada, or other Country, by not less than five (5) local members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. who desire to unite in a local effort to forward the purposes of the Society and their own local interests in African violets.

Each Affiliated Chapter shall enact its own By-laws, a typed or printed copy of which, must be filed with the African Violet Society of America, Inc. These By-laws shall require that not less than one fourth (¼) of the members of the Affiliated Chapter, including the officers of it, shall also be members of African Violet Society of America, Inc. All Affiliated Chapters shall include among their officers a President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; but they may determine other officers than these that may be desired. They may make additional qualifications for their local members; they may determine the manner in which their local programs and activities shall be conducted and financed; and they may also determine the dates of their local meetings and events, provided such dates do not conflict and interfere with the activities of African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Any officer of an Affiliated Chapter, preferably the Treasurer, shall file with the Treasurer of African Violet Society of America, Inc., 2694 Lenox Road, N. E., Atlanta 5, Georgia, the names and correct addresses of all of the local members of their respective Chapter, both new and old, together with their membership dues in African Violet Society of America, Inc. As a means of assisting Affiliated Chapter, fifty cents (50¢) of each local member's Individual Membership Dues in African Violet Society of America, Inc. may be retained in the Affiliated Chapter's treasury. The balance, $2.50 shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of African Violet Society as indicated: The sum of one dollar ($1.00) may be retained in the treasury of an Affiliated Chapter from each local member's Commercial, Sustaining and Research membership in the Society; and the balance in each instance shall be sent to the Treasurer of the Society as indicated.

All qualified local African violet societies and clubs now in existence are most cordially invited to become Affiliated Chapters of African Violet Society of America, Inc. The same hearty hand of welcome is extended to every qualified local African violet society or club that will be organized in the future. Dues are $2.50 a year.

Affiliation of any Local Chapter with African Violet Society of America, Inc. may be revoked by the Board of Directors of the Society for just cause.

BENEFITS

The benefits of affiliation are:

1. The Club is entitled to regular membership privileges -- one voting delegate at our Annual Meeting.
2. One magazine will be mailed to the club.
3. The Club's officers will be listed annually in our Member's Handbook.
4. Awards for the Club's African Violet Shows will be available when specifications made by the award committee are complied with.
5. Colored transparencies for program will be available -- Local Club to pay only postage.
6. Books from our library will be available -- Local Club to pay postage.

From the President's Message page 7 of Volume V, Number 1 of this Magazine.

NEW AFFILIATED CHAPTERS

We extend a most cordial welcome to the following newly affiliated chapters:

THOUSAND ISLAND AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB
Mrs. R. B. Hibbard, Pres.,
518 Mary St., Clayton, N. Y:

SACRAMENTO SAINTPAULIA SOCIETY
Mrs. L. C. Jopson, Secty.,
1717 4th Ave., Sacramento, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CHAPTER
2140 Loraine Rd.,
San Marino, Calif.

OUR LADY GENEVA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF HOPKINS MINNESOTA,
Mrs. Daniel Bren,
Pioneer Rd., Hopkins, Minn.

NASHVILLE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
Mrs. J. C. Bramford, Pres.,
Woodmont Blvd., Nashville, Tenn.

MUSKOGEE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
Mrs. F. H. Moore, Sect'y-Treas.,
1404 Baltimore, Muskogee, Okla.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA,
Miss Ruth Black, Pres.,
2012 Stenton Ave., Philadelphia 38, Penna.

BERGEN COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. Charles McQuade,
113 Palmer Place, Leonia, N. J.

BORDER CITIES AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB,
6810 Theisen, Dearborn, Mich.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF MUSCLE SHOALS, Alabama Area,
Mrs. D. T. Wilcoxson,
925 Wood Ave., N. Florence, Ala.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF GREATER KANSAS CITY,
Mrs. E. E. Davis, Corr. Secty.,
3810 E. 12th Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.

AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF BEAUMONT,
Miss Pearl Pres.,
Tyrrell Public Library, Beaumont, Texas

AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF BUTLER MISSOURI,
Mrs. Gleta M. Jewett, Pres.,
211 W. Pine St., Butler, Mo.

LACY GIRLS (AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY),
Mrs. G. King, Sect'y.,
1671 Charles Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. Harry L. Bogardus, Treas.,
51 Chestnut St., Dansville, N. Y.

LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. Margaret C. Garbutt, Treas.,
4350 Victoria Park Drive, Los Angeles 19, Calif.

FRINGETTE AFRICAN VIOLET CLUB OF ST. PAUL MINNESOTA,
Mrs. P. W. Baldwin, Sect'y.,
1471 Hewitt, St. Paul, Minn.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY,
Mrs. J. L. Zurschmeide, Sect'y.,
4503 Parker Ave., Louisville, Ky.

FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHICAGO,
Mrs. W. H. Fowkes, Pres.,
3343 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago 25, Ill.

ELITE CHAPTER, FIRST AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CHICAGO ILLINOIS,
Mrs. Rose Trendler, Pres.,
250 E. 81st St., Chicago 19, Ill.

DAYTON AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY,
Mrs. E. R. Goodyard,
2135 Paverwood Ave., Dayton 6, Ohio

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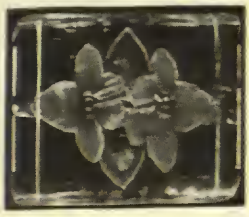

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Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

Chances are that by the time you discover these minute pests it will be too late. For mealy bugs are less than one-fifth of an inch long. And the devastating cyclemen mite and broad mite are *invisible* to the naked eye! They feed on the lower side of the leaf and frequent the junction of leaf and stalk. But they are easily and quickly controlled by Marvel Spray from famous Ogen Laboratories.

As Marvel Spray is an ovacide, it penetrates the waxy shells of these insidious enemies of the African Violet. It is immediately effective and a great time saver! Yet Marvel Spray, which also is used for Gardenias, Ivy and other indoor plants, is non-poisonous to humans and household pets. Highly concentrated (125 to 1), it is so economical any plant lover can afford this protection.

Get Marvel Spray from your garden or hardware store. If your dealer can't supply you, send $1 for large 4-oz. can—postpaid. Also free new folder "How to Grow African Violets." Write today. Rose Mfg. Co. (Makers of Tri-Ogen—World's Largest-Selling Group of "Rose Grow-ers"). 514-32 Ogen Bldg., Beacon, N. Y.

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LAKEVIEW GARDENS
Box 20 Fenton, Michigan

POOR MULTIPLE CROWN

Cont. from page 27

There she sits, still blooming her heart out for us! Perhaps each bloom is a tear pleading for her life as we never keep old plants in our collection. They are either replaced with young plants of the same variety or we slice the old plant off at soil level and re-root them in vermiculite, then repot them in 4 inch red clay pots. Usually they continue to bloom thru this re-rooting process. The old plant re-rooted makes a much firmer plant in the pot. It will then live indefinitely without becoming wobbly in the pot, unless attacked with root rot or nematodes. Given the same constant care we give our plantlets, removing all suckers before they become larger than "mouse ears," these old plants grow into perfectly formed plants even lovelier than they were in their younger days.

We do not give our seedlings this exact care, as we grow them to blooming size in 2 inch clay pots, surrounded by moist vermiculite in aluminum biscuit pans or a shelf in our dining room window. We have 56 seedlings on one shelf 50" long in our east window. No! This is not written by a person who boasts a green house as we have two dining room windows -- one north, one east and two small kitchen windows on the north. All have shelves up the entire height of the windows. The highest shelves have an aluminum foil tray fashioned to fit the window shelf. The pots sit on wet sphagnum moss as this lowers the temperature about 10 degrees. This is also a good means of obtaining more humidity. Our violet incubator is in our bath room window. The back and front porches do their part in summer. The over flow plants live through the summer heat of Kansas out side on the north side of the house.

It is truly amazing, the huge quantity of African violets that can be grown in a small home, when all of them are kept single crown. Of course it requires more care to keep them single crown but we could never be proud of a collection of "Topsys," those poor, uncomfortable looking, multiple crown plants when if given care, the right soil formula, a single crown will have far more bloom than any neglected multiple crown plant.

We thought it was about time some one came to the defense of the single crown plant, when so many people are under the false impression that a multiple crown plant will have more bloom for them.

The single crown will also have larger flowers. Many we have are the size of a silver dollar. Most all our plants have blooms the size of a fifty cent piece.

We think something should be done about excluding multiple crown plants at an African violet show, even in a group by themselves. They are not show plants in any sense of the word, just poor old neglected Saintpaulias left to grow the best they can like "Topsy."

SOPHIA BAKER'S QUESTIONS —

Cont. from page 18

A. My method is to sprinkle the seeds as evenly as possible over a moist mixture of peat and vermiculite, 2/3 peat, 1/3 vermiculite. I use a covered glass refrigerator dish until plantlets are about one inch high. Wipe excess moisture from the lid.

Q. If stems get limp, could it be caused from too much fertilizer?

A. Yes, or too much moisture, heat or any diseased condition such as nematodes.

Q. When leaves get limp and rot off, is that crown rot?

A. Not necessarily, but a limp leaf indicates an unhealthy condition. The Saintpaulia may be planted too deeply, the soil may be too heavy, or mineral salts collecting on the rim of the pot also causes leaves to rot off.

Q. If double violets are sterile, how do we get new doubles?

A. All doubles are not sterile. I have used pollen from several doubles with success.

Q. What makes tiny leaves sprout at the base of the leaf instead of from the rooted stem end? They usually die too.

A. An injury may cause it to produce a plant on the leaf. However, Saintpaulias are unpredictable and this is what helps to make them so interesting.

Q. How do all the nurseries get the newer varieties and come out with them at near the same time, such as Lady Geneva?

A. Sometimes the wholesale dealer doesn't release a particular plant until he can supply several nurseries or retailers.

Q. Is Lady Geneva a sport of Blue Boy?

A. I do not know, but the answer would make a good magazine story.

Q. Are Orchid Girl, Red Head Girl and Red Girl the same?

A. To me, they are.

Q. What causes a double African violet to drop buds?

A. They say Doubles require more humidity and more fertilizer. A good way to increase humidity is to place a potted plant in a jardiniere and pour a little hot water in the jardiniere each day. -- Let the steam come up under the foliage.

Q. Do plants with a bad case of mites have to be thrown out?

A. This is a matter of preference. If you have plenty of plants it might be better to throw the badly diseased ones away. Several good articles on mites have been published in the African Violet Magazine and there are more to come.

Q. What causes a plant to just grow tiny leaves and they drop off, causing plant to look something like a pineapple stem?

A. Improper care in general.

Q. What may one use to make plants bloom?

A. 1. Plenty of light without too much sun.
2. Regular feeding.
3. Proper humidity.
4. Adequate watering with warm water.
5. Good light soil and correct temperature.

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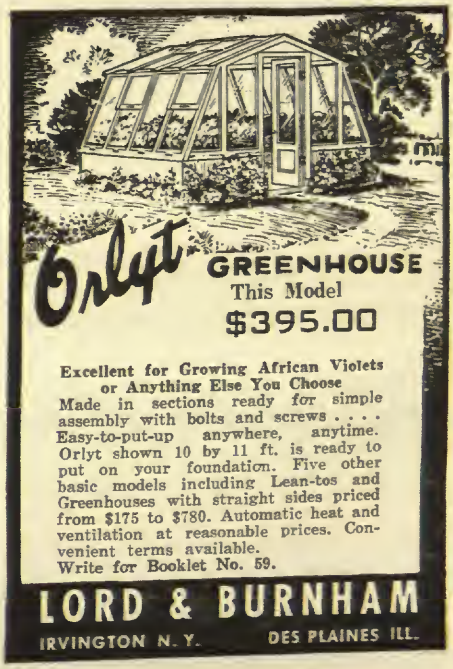

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TINKER BELL - Our new miniature girl introduction for 1952. Oddly convoluted girl foliage with creamy white edging. Medium red flowers borne on tall stems well above the leaves $2.00

SUNSET LANE - Originated by Carolyn Rector, and being introduced by us this year. It makes a large plant like Blue Warrior, but the flowers are a uniform light mauve with no shading $1.50

ENCHANTRESS - A distinctive bicolor with girl foliage. The large airy flowers of lightest pink-mauve are marked at the juncture and tips of the two upper petals with deep wine red $1.50

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AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32" -A .08c, 7/32" -B .10c, 1/4" .12c, 3/8" .15c each. 7/32" wicks for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

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Dealers write for our 1952 price list.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

AUTOMATIC-IRRIGATION OF POT PLANTS

Cont. from page 14

I have tried out numerous types of Automatic-Irrigators for individual plants, that are on the market and find in most of them that there is no way for evaporation to give the necessary humidity around the plants; in practically all of them there is absolutely too small a reservoir for water and in one the irrigator was so small that it made the pot look so top heavy that the pot and plant have the appearance of being liable to topple over at any time.

I wish you could see my African violets for they shine like silver dollars, not a single distorted, spotted or diseased leaf for there is no splashing water to cause any trouble. I hope to have pictures of them soon.

Photo No. 3 shows a grilled-vat loaded with plants all in luxuriant growth, thus you see you can use this system on practically all of your house plants. Photo No. 4 shows a hanging 12" wire basket filled with Wandering Jew, Airplane Plant, Variegated Vinca and Basket of Gold, each trying to crowd the other over the rim. The basket is equipped with a 1 pound coffee can as an Automatic-Irrigator. Photo No. 5 shows 3 Potho Wilcoxi or Devils Ivy in a 3 pound Crisco can as an irrigator, the longest runner is 84 inches long and still running. One of my next experiments will be to insert the roots of Saintpaulias through the sheet moss liner of a wire basket into the soil the same as you would in a "strawberry jar" and equip the basket with two 3/8" wicks. I will put a specimen plant in the top of the basket.

In my experiments I have used over 40 plants, including 19 different varieties, to find out which plants would take to this system and which would not. I have an article ready for the Begonian Magazine giving the details on each variety as they have shown up for me. That would be too long for this article; possibly later on . . .

I am now starting a new series of experiments: Unded the potting bench we have installed five grilled vats 39" x 42" x 4" on one end of a bench in the greenhouse. Those under the potting bench will be for cutting flats and seed pans and those in the greenhouse will be for pot plants. I will also experiment with wick fed plants and seed and cutting pans under infra-red lights.

A preliminary report on the seed pans: The Geo. J. Ball Seed Co., in their Red Book have a germination table giving the normal time it takes for most seeds to germinate; I will first give their time and follow with my time, Balsam 2-3 weeks, up in 4 days and 145 plants potted 5th and 6th day; Coleus 2-3 weeks, up in 9 days; Begonias 2-3 weeks, up in 1 week; Mimulus 1-2 weeks, up in 4 days. I can furnish proof that these statements are correct.

PLANTING BY THE MOON

Ada Muir, Canada

If we are going to use Moon Signs for best results we must take into consideration the type of plant we are interested in. The African violet is moisture loving and knowing that some signs of the Zodiac are what are termed Water Signs and also knowing by observation that there is greater humidity when the Moon is passing through those signs, we choose these if possible for all growing and developing operations in connection with our African violets.

Then we must consider the phases of the Moon, whether increasing or decreasing in light and try to confine our growing operations to the period between the New and Full Moon. From the Full Moon to the New is a wonderful time for weeding, spraying, taking out dead leaves, etc.

The periods when both Sun and Moon are in Water Signs are of course the best and these are from February 20th to March 20th, from June 21st to July 22nd and from October 23rd to November 21st. So our best dates for the year 1952 only will be after the New Moon and before the Full Moon in those periods.

The Sun-Moon Water dates will be Feb. 25, 26; March 5, 6; June 22, 23; July 2, 3; October 28, 29 and November 17, 24, 25.

Secondary dates during these periods are when the Moon is passing through Earth Signs and these are February 29, March 1, July 7, October 24, 25 and November 1.

It sometimes happens that our plants need attention in order to further their development during other months of the year so the dates of Water Signs and Earth Signs of the Moon are given for best results during these other periods.

Days of Water Signs are: January 10, 11; February 7, 8; April 1, 2, 29, 30; May 8, 26, 27; June 5, 6; July 29, 30, 31; August 26, 27; September 3, 4, 22, 23; October 1, 2, 19, 20; November 24, 25, and December 22, 23, 30.

During these periods when the Moon is in Earth Signs are also good and these are: January 6, 7; February 2, 3; March 28, 29; April 25, July 7; August 3, 4, 30, 31; September 27, 28; October 24, 25; November 20, 21, 28, 29, 30 and December 17, 18, 26, 27.

Some growers prefer the Sign Libra but we must remember that sometimes when the Moon is passing through Libra it will not be the correct phase of the Moon. Periods when the Moon is increasing in light in Sign Libra are: April 9, 10; May 6, 7; June 3, 4; July 27, 28; August 23, 24; September 20, 21 and October 18. Other dates of the Libra Moon but in the dark of the Moon are January 18, 19; February 14, 15; March 12, 13, 14; November 13, 14 and December 11, 12.

Those who are interested in experimenting with colchicine or any other method of culture used in attempting to produce mutation should get best results while the Moon is passing through Libra as Libra is in sympathy with changes in form or color.

J. A. PETERSON SONS

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SODIUM SELENATE IN CAPSULS

A new and thoroughly reliable method for the control of Mite, Mealy Bug, Cyclamen Mite, Red Spider, Aphids and pests that attack African violets. Sodium Selenate is a poisonous material which when absorbed by the plant, kills the insect.

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Begonias and other house plants.
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ATLAS FISH EMULSION FERTILIZER

A liquid -- Feed as you water -- Contains all essential nutrients (22 minerals and trace elements, plus B-Complex vitamins).

A COMPLETE -- BALANCED DIET -- produces healthy plants, vigorous growth, fine texture of foliage, profusion of rich-colored blooms.

1/4 Teaspoon ATLAS per quart water for AFRICAN VIOLETS and other indoor plants OR 1 Tablespoon per gallon water for outdoor plants.

ORDER NOW FOR SPRING PLANTING

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ATLAS FERTILIZER EMULSION
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AFRICAN VIOLET LEAVES
Azure Beauty, Carmen, Pink Delight, Blue Heiress, Rose Marie, Sailor's Delight, Purity, Lacey Girl and Pastel Girl. 5 for $2.00 postpaid; 8 for $3.00 postpaid. Safe Delivery guaranteed.
TRIBBLE'S
FT. PAYNE, ALABAMA

You Don't have to Bake or Steam your Soil

Bee Wills, Ill.

I wonder how many of you find sterilizing your African violet soil a tiresome task? Through a florist friend of mine, I have found a way of dispensing with all the baking and steaming and have had such splendid results with this method I hope you will try it too.

The reason for replacing the soil is to get rid of the pests that infest old soils. Nurserys use steam or give soil a hot water treatment. Now this can be completely done away with -- by using Soilene.

Soilene is a soil insecticide that will effectively control all pests in the soil with so much less dirt, fuss, and bother. I believe it is more effective than steaming soil. It will kill nematodes and other noxious soil insects that give us so much worry.

I use an ounce of Soilene to each bushel of potting soil, also I use one ounce of Electra to the same amount of mixture. I find with these two products that I get heavier stems, larger root systems, and larger and better colored flowers. My soil is very light and porous. When I start my humus pile, I always add well rotted cow manure and layers of sand and some black soil to my oak and hickory leaves; this is a fine light mixture in itself, and to this I add a couple tablespoons of vermiculite to each 3 inch pot.

I also put Soilene in my potting mixture in flats or bowls for starting leaves, using ½ each of sand and vermiculite, and a teaspoonful of Soilene to each quart of dirt.

For insects which attack above the soil I use Detex. I first tried this when a friend came to me to help her get rid of mealy bugs. In sheer desperation we tried the Detex that I had been using for iris borer and it cured every plant. Later I tried it out on cyclamen mites on another friend's collection with like results. Detex is a complete D. D. T. insecticide and is a fast killing spray, and when used according to directions, it will not spot the leaves. I spray regularly once a month with Detex as a preventive measure and my plants are wonderfully clean and shining.

Perhaps your local florist can supply you with these products. I have been so happy in using them and passing on the word to others who have tried them with success also. Should you be unable to procure them, if you will write me I will gladly tell you how they can be ordered from my own florist.

I hope I have helped you, as so many of the other articles in our magazine have helped me.

AFRICAN VIOLETS IN ALASKA

Alice Tilton Thorne

Alaska presents special problems to African violet fans it is true; but no doubt your editor, in requesting articles from this region, realized that many of these same difficulties are shared by those in northern states and Canada as well. For actually the climate in Southeastern Alaska is much more temperate than in many of the States.

Since winter is upon us, with it's long dark nights and many temperature changes, heat, light and ventilation are the main things to be considered.

Many of us have no central heating and live in rural areas where there is either no electricity or the rates make electric heating prohibitive. I have found that a small, portable kerosene heater does the trick for cool corners or for the glassed-in porch. It may be regulated somewhat or moved closer to or farther from the violets for control. And watch the thermometer, of course. Humidity can be added by placing a kettle of water on the heater from time to time.

For those who do have electricity, fluorescent lighting is inexpensive and very effective. A room that will hold several hundred plants, if carefully arranged, can be quite well lighted by a fixture holding two 40-watt, daylight bulbs, if the walls are light and the fixture hung high enough so that the light spreads. Plants will bloom steadily and the leaves will be exceptionally beautiful.

I arrange my plants in tiers, on shelves made of boxes (or camp stools for the lower ones) with boards or plywood set across them. Painted or covered, these shelves can be most attractive. Each shelf, if wide enough will hold 3 tiers of plants, elevating the back and middle tiers on cans of various heights, painted or covered. Or narrow boards can be laid across glass bricks or inverted dime-store refrigerator dishes.

This tiered arrangement is a space-saver and a beautifier. It allows for over-lapping without crowding and the massed and banked effect shows off the plants and blooms to the best advantage while it almost completely hides the shelving. It also allows for easy watering without spilling water on the leaves.

The higher the plants are in the room, the closer they will be to the light. So for continuous bloom one can rotate the plants. As soon as one begins to bud it is put on a low shelf and the lighter, top-shelf spot given to one which needs blooming encouragement. Having all of the blooming plants together on the lower shelves adds to the effectiveness too. And I have found that if all of the doubles are grouped together they show to a much better advantage.

An Aladdin lamp elevated above your plants on a table or plant shelf will give needed light and warmth as well.

For bottom heat for rooting cuttings and nursing baby plants, the kerosene heater used for heating water for chickens, as suggested by Estelle Bentley in the December, 1949 issue of this magazine, certainly bears mentioning again.

If you have a ventilating problem, I would refer you to a method described by Harriet Lawton in the June 1949 issue, as follows: "If fresh air is let in the first thing in the morning, then it is sure to be seen to and is out of the way for the day. A good way is to close the door to the plant room, open a window wide in an adjoining room for about half an hour, and after the window has been closed, open the plant room door so the fresh air can circulate."

Visitors from "outside" tell us that some of our collections in the Territory far surpass those in some of the large cities in the States, in beauty and in numbers as well. African violets mean a great deal to Alaskans and are fast becoming very popular here. They bring gaiety during our long winters when, with a backdrop of sparkling icicles and snow-covered mountains beyond, their frosted blooms match the colors of our northern lights.

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Featuring leaf shipping service from all the very newest varieties such as, Yellow Brown Girl, Blue Heiress, Azure Beauty, Sailor's Delight, Purity (pure white double).
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Leaves from as many Old Varieties as possible. Write for price list.

START - RIGHT
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VIOLET - LITE

Newly discovered non-packing aerating white mineral. Four quart bag, directions inside, 50c post paid.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications have been received during the period October 5, 1951 to December 31, 1951. No objections to registration are apparent to the Committee.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Glitter 10-5-51
Mrs. Louella Pound
Smithburg, Maryland
"It grows upright and large. The leaves are flecked over with yellow and the veins are flushed wine, glossy, and it is a lovely shaped plant. The flowers are a beautiful blue and the splashes of silver on three lower petals make it very attractive."

Pink Cheer 11-1-51
John R. Gent
595 Vosburg Road
Webster, New York
"A deep rose-pink sport of Fantasy, having the same growing and blooming habits. (It comes true to color)"

Royal Ripples 11-4-51
Mrs. Sophia Baker
2733 S.E. 35th Place
Portland 2, Oregon
"A sport of Blue Boy that resembles the Fringettes. Leaves are dark green with light veins, dark red back. Blossoms are purple, some have white edges, quite fringed."

White duPont 11-14-51
Oliver H. Pease
1913 Tonawanda Avenue
Akron 5, Ohio
"A duPont" produced by colchicine treatment of White Lady. Has general characteristics of White Lady Supreme in that the leaves are light green, serrated and very brittle; the blossoms, however, are somewhat "sweet pea" shaped and have tendency to be fringed."

Princess Elizabeth 11-30-51
Mrs. Arthur A. Pyle
Russell, Iowa
"Raised from seed purchased from Ralph Dietrick, Des Moines, Ia. Perhaps about one dozen plants from this package reached maturity, of which about five were worth saving. Princess Elizabeth is easy to propagate, flowers large, a reddish purple, leaves and coloring outstanding. Some leaves cupping or spooning as the plant ages. Scallops and ruffling more pronounced on some plants than others. Prolific bloomer, grows rapidly. A leaf cutting sends up several plants."

Lady Loreta 12-5-51
Mrs. Olga Rolf Tiemann
Westboro, Mo.
"This plant was the only one grown to maturity from an entire packet of mixed seeds. It is similar to Blue Girl in leaf and flower but a better grower and bloomer. The satiny leaves with striking white area at base are very curly and so full at base they overlap where petiole joins leaf. The edges are crenate which adds to their beauty. The large blossoms are cleanly cut, with good substance to the petals — a satiny, rich, deep blue with slightly darker area in center."

PART II

Communications have been received concerning six of the plants published in Part II of the December 1951 Report as being under "Committee Protest."

The following plants are stated to have been vegetatively propagated at least twice prior to application:

Orchid Wing
Red Rave
Red Wing

The "Protest" is thus removed and these three plants can be considered as having been published in Part I of the Report.

Paradise has not been sufficiently propagated to be registerable, so publication of it reverts to Name Reservation only.

The originator has supplied description of the following two plants, as follows:

Oros Crimson: "The flower on this variety somewhat resembles the flower of the Red Head but is a darker red, much larger, and the flower is flatter and more opened. The leaves are a very dark green and glossy."

Oros Candida: "This variety is a purer white than any other white violet I have ever seen. The leaves of this variety are a darker green than on the other white varieties. The flower resembles the White Lady bloom in shape but is at least twice as large."

These descriptions should be accepted rather than the ones published in the December Report.

NAME RESERVATIONS

PART III

The following name reservations have been made during this period.

Blondie Girl
Blue Shadows
Bright Morning
Buffalo Gal
Cody Girl
Crested Girl
Crimson Glory
Curly Collar
Curly Cue
Dorbi
Double Crystal Queen
Elfin Girls*
Fairy Boats
Fanfare
Fascination
Foothills
Hawaiian Sunset
Holly
Holly Leafed Girl
Hug-Me-Tight
Indian Princess
Jo'es Girls*
Judy Madsen
Lady Chamelon
Lady Eleanor
Lady Esther
Lady Firebird
Lavender and Old Lace
Lilac Girl
Little Dove
Longfellow
Lyleann
Miss Nebraska
Orchid Girl Spooned
Orchid Island
Pink Cheer
Purple Flame
Purple Missouri Girl
Queen Ann
Queen Esther*

Red Missouri Girl	Silver Lining
Red Mosaic	Spooned Beauty
Red Star	Sunset
Resurrection	Tecumseh Beauty
Rolling Hills	Tiny Doll
Rosa Mae	Tiny Lady
Satinette	White Caps
Shalimar	

Note: *designates reservation made for series name.

PART IV

PROTESTS AND CORRECTIONS

Numerous communications were received pointing out the error in registration of Oriental Girl. All parties concerned agree that the registration should be:

Oriental Girl 1-9-51
Mrs. Grace Gammell
2415 Des Moines Street
Des Moines 17, Iowa

The error occurred because incorrect information was placed on the application card, which was submitted by a third party without having been checked by either Mrs. Kellar or Mrs. Gammell.

PART V

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

All protests on Applications for Registration published in the June 1951 issue have been resolved, and the protest period has now ended, so all plants published in Part I of that report are now permanently registered.

GUMMED LABELS WITH NAME AND ADDRESS—

Assorted colors on black and white.
300 in plastic box $1.00. 1,000 in paper box $2.00.

BILLY NEWBERRY
Mechanicsburg, Virginia

ECONOMY PLUS QUALITY

THAT'S FRENTZENS' SUPERIOR ROOTED CUTTINGS

Since 1947 our Rooted Cutting sales have steadily increased, there must be a reason, 50,000 of the best varieties are in propagation at all times for mail orders. Economy conscious folks have found our Cuttings travel through the mail best, are economical to buy and represent the best investment.

WHY PAY MORE?

AFRICAN VIOLET ROOTED CUTTINGS

White Girl, White Beauty, Blue Eyed Beauty, Snow Prince, Rose Marie, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, Blue Heiress, Red Velvet, Garnet King, Snow Girl, Innocence, Dble. Sailors Delight, Dble. Orchid Girl, Dble. Sea Girl, Snow White, Rainbow Doubles: Purity, Rose, Dark Beauty and Azure Beauty: priced at 10 for $7.50, Postpaid, Special Delivery.
Fresh cut leaves of above varieties 10 for $4.00 Postpaid, Special Delivery.
OVER 100 OTHER EXCELLENT VARIETIES:
ROOTED CUTTINGS 10 FOR $5.00 P. P. Special Del. FRESH CUT LEAVES 10 FOR $2.50 P. P. Special Del.
Send for our FREE PRICE LIST over 125 varieties of African Violet Plants .75c - $2.00 NONE HIGHER
UNUSUAL HOUSE PLANTS, COMPLETE LISTING OF GROWING SUPPLIES
WHOLESALE & RETAIL GROWERS OF MERITORIOUS PLANTS

FRENTZEN FLORAL GARDENS
309 Lake Ave. Dept. A Pitman, N.J.

From our test plantings we have selected a few plants to introduce that have proven themselves worthy of cultivation. Our spring Gesneriad List includes new items such as Episcia tessellata the yellow-flowered episcia, and other choice new plants. For plant connoisseurs, we also have a list of rare and exotic Tropical Foliage Plants.

Fantastic Gardens

R. G. Wilson, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue **South Miami 43, Florida**

NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET*

Jesse M. Rawson
Department of Soil Science
Michigan State College
East Lansing, Michigan
1948

INTRODUCTION

In the last fifty years much emphasis has been placed upon the study of nutrition. Human nutrition, animal nutrition, and farm and garden crop nutrition have been investigated in much detail and much has been learned about each phase and about the relationship of each phase to the others.

Somewhat more recently studies of the nutritional requirements of ornamental plants have been undertaken in an attempt to produce better greenhouse flowers and to learn the deficiency and toxicity symptoms of the major nutrient elements as manifested in ornamental crops. To mention a few, Fuhr has reported on **Begonia semperflorens** (7), Jackson studied **Pelargonium hortorum** (16), and Gartner has studied both **Cineraria stellata** (9) and **Primula obconica** (8).

To obtain data on another house and greenhouse plant which has attained great popularity within the last decade Professor C. E. Wildon suggested that this study be undertaken using the **Saintpaulia** or African violet.

THE NATIVE ENVIRONMENT

In 1893 Ulrich Saint Paul-Illaire of Fishbach in Silesia, the president of the Dendrological Society of Germany, wrote to the publisher of **Curtis Magazine:** "The **Saintpaulia** was discovered by my son who lives in East Africa where he owns plantations of vanilla and India-rubber trees. It was found in two localities; one about an hour from Tanga, in wooded places, in the fissures of limestone rocks, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter. This place is not more than fifty to one hundred and fifty feet above sea level. The second place is in the primeval forests of the Usambaras, likewise in shady locations, but on granite rocks, two thousand five hundred feet above the sea. It is much more plentiful in the former place. Several varieties have been discovered that differ slightly in color of the flowers but all are blue." (26)

*An investigation undertaken by Mr. Jesse Rawson is herewith published to make known some interesting information concerning Saintpaulias.

Evan Roberts, Research Editor,
AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

The native habitat of a plant often provided important clues to its proper culture and this letter has indicated a number of practices which are of considerable value in the culture of the African violet. For example, shade or at least protection from the direct rays of the sun is essential for the continued well-being of this plant especially during the summer. Furthermore, it has been found that the minimum temperature for both growth and flowering is 60 degrees F. and the optimum temperature is in the range of 70 to 75 degrees F. It will endure temperatures considerably higher than this as it is a native of the tropics.

In regard to nutrition, however, the letter gives two types of substrate which from the rather meager details given seem to be diametrically opposed in several respects. If the type of media is interpreted literally the first group of plants, which were growing in "fissures of limestone rocks, as well as in rich soil with plenty of vegetable matter," were supplied satisfactorily with nitrates and phosphorus from the organic matter and with calcium and perhaps magnesium from the limestone rocks ($CaCO_3$ or $CaMg(CO_3)_2$). Other nutrients perhaps present in the "rich soil" are unknown. The pH was undoubtedly high due to the calcium. The second group of plants were found on "granite rocks" which might indicate the presence of a number of nutrients depending upon the type of granite Orthoclas ($KAlSi_3O_8$), albite ($NaAlSi_3O_8$), anorthite ($CaAl_2(SiO_4)_2$), or the micas, muscovite ($KH_2Al_3(SiO_4)_3$) and biotite ($(KH)_2(MgFe)_2Al_2(SiO_4)_3$) are some of the possible minerals included in granite rocks. As can be seen, potassium is the predominant nutri-

ent element with possibly some sodium, calcium, magnesium and iron also present. Again organic matter in the forest would provide nitrates and phosphorus. The pH of granitic rocks tends to be acidic to some degree.

This poses the question as to the adaptability of the Saintpaulia to various nutrient conditions assuming that the geological observations were correct. It is to be regretted that Saint Paul did not study the plants critically in each environment to learn if they were better adapted to the one habitat or the other.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The confusion concerning the proper nutrition of the African violet has persisted to the present time and there exists a number of opinions which are for the most part either conflicting or too general to be of much value.

An item in the Gardener's Chronicle of London (2) written in 1925 states, "this plant will grow in practically any soil that is sweet and well drained."

Mildred Andrews (1) writes, "Saintpaulias bloom prolifically if kept in small pots where roots are crowded, however they should be given ample diet in mellow, well-proportioned potting soil. Superfluous nitrogen, from concentrated nourishment or too much root room, encourages leaf growth and offsets, with few or no flower buds. -- Even when the plants are budding their leaves may become somewhat yellowed. This might be from overwatering, or the use of water not of room temperature, or result from lack of nourishment."

Helen C. Hill (10) recommends a rich, sandy loam and states that ordinarily the plant will need no fertilizing. Also that the plant should be just moist "which means neither too wet nor too dry."

Elinor Block (3) in Better Homes and Gardens writes concerning small plants, "don't insist on feeding these tiny guests, since they find plenty of nourishment in the leafmold in which they're grown." When it becomes necessary to shift the plants she recommends that "one-third well decomposed leafmold, one-third peat and one-third sand" be used for potting.

Mrs. Alfred Iddles (15) uses a potting soil consisting of "two parts loam, one part sand, one part leafmold."

Mrs. Silas B. Waters (25) states that "a friable soil made of equal parts of good loam, granular humus or leafmold, sand and some very old manure is an ideal planting medium."

Anna S. Howland (12) pots young plants "in a loose soil composed largely of leafmold and sand."

C. J. Hudson Jr. (14) writes that J. W. Good, a commercial grower from Springfield, Ohio suggests "a mixture of two-thirds clay loam, and one-third peat moss plus a small amount of sand and a little fertilizer as an excellent potting mixture for these plants."

**AFRICAN VIOLET TROUBLE?
HOUSE PLANTS DYING BECAUSE
YOU FORGOT TO WATER THEM?**

TRY

WIK-FED FLOWER POTS

The new, scientific, sub-irrigating flower pot. Ideal for African Violets and other house plants. Feeds moisture and plant food in solution directly to roots through Fiber-Glass Wick.

Water only once each 7 to 10 days.

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Jessie Crawford (6) prefers to use one-third leafmold or peat, one-third cow manure and one-third sand.

Albert C. Nichols (20) uses a heavy clay soil which he conditions with sand, peat moss and well rotted cow manure "then add a generous double handful of bone meal to a bushel of soil."

Oliver Bowles (4) advocates a mixture consisting of "five-twelfths leafmold from a compost heap, four-twelfths good garden soil, two-twelfths sand and one-twelfth dried cow manure."

Sister Mary Juliana (17) adds "a handful of bone meal and a tablespoonful of ground limestone in each box of organic compost (her boxes are 24" x 8" x 8")."

Helen Loeffler (19) uses half soil and half Oak leaf mold and then adds a cupful of bone meal to each ten quart pailful. After screening she adds three quarts of builders' sand.

Mrs. Z. C. Layson (18) uses "three parts clayey loam from an old fence row, two parts sifted humus from a well rotted straw stack spiked with equally well rotted cattle droppings, one part of sharp sand and a four inch pot of 18% superphosphate to a bushel of mixture. This soil tests neutral to slightly acid. . . . After young plants start to bloom, I feed about every two months with a solution of any standard commercial fertilizer at one-half the prescribed strengh."

Most of the authors quoted thus far are amateurs writing for various home and garden magazines, and to date, most of the interest and much of the writing has been from this source. The four quotations which follow are perhaps the most authoritative references found and it is of interest to note in each case how the authors carefully avoid dogmatic statements.

C. J. Hudson, Jr. (13) reviews the recommended soils as follows: "The generally accepted combination is a mixture of equal parts good garden soil, leafmold and sand. The sand is necessary for proper drainage and is sometimes used in proportions up to as much as one-half of the mixture, especially when a heavy soil base is used. If leafmold is not available, peat moss may be used instead. Some use well rotted cow manure for this part of the mixture."

"It is interesting to note however, that there are many other recommended mixtures. Some growers even use pure well rotted manure with about one-fourth sand and have excellent results. Others use about one-half manure and the balance soil and sand. One well known Atlanta grower has grown some excellent specimens in water solutions."

Helen Van Pelt Wilson (26) does not recommend any particular soil but gives a "soil formula" preferred by Mrs. Ferne Kellar as follows:

"3 parts good black soil (gumbo)
1 part peat
1 part compost (about half manure)
1 part rotted manure

2 parts sand

She adds to each bushel of this soil mixture:

1 six-inch potful of superphosphate

1 gallon of wood ashes containing bits of burnt wood or charcoal."

Evan Roberts (22) states that "often the difference between a good and a better plant is a matter of supplying fertilizer to the plant. Any complete plant food may be used if it is applied in weak doses. A level teaspoonful of a complete commercial fertilizer dissolved in a gallon of lukewarm water may be poured on the soil."

W. D. Holley (11) sums up the situation as follows, "whether you succeed or fail with African violets will not be determined by your feeding practices, but the degree of your success most certainly will be. The difference between good and excellent plants in these experiments was merely a matter of regular feeding at two to three week intervals with a good plant food. Plants fed regularly responded with more and larger flowers as well as with healthier foliage. Any complete plant food used in weak doses and at regular intervals is satisfactory."

It appears that the African violet thrives on many types of potting composts provided the other environmental factors are good to optimum for the plant. The important factors to consider are temperature, light, moisture, and perhaps pH of the soil. On each of these points a number of divergent opinions have been expressed.

As the **Saintpaulia** is a native of the tropical rain-forest it is reasonable to believe that the optimum temperature is rather high.

C. J. Hudson, Jr. (13) states that "the ideal temperature range is 60 to 75 degrees F., the lower temperature being the night temperature."

Evan Roberts (22) writes that "temperatures below 60 degrees F. retard growth. In the mountains of the native jungles the average temperature is from 70 to 80 degrees."

W. D. Holley (11) correlates temperature with light as follows, "this plant, like any other flowering plant, cannot live long in a poor light and a temperature of 70 degrees F. or above. But with good sunlight the African violet may be successful even if the night temperature is up to 75 degrees. Temperatures below 60 degrees F. slow up growth and development considerably."

Light is a very important factor in the flowering of **Saintpaulia** and receives comment in almost every article written. Most of the amateur controversy is limited to whether the plants do best in a north, south, east or west window.

Roberts (22) says, "that the optimum light intensity is about 500 foot candles two hours before and after noon," and he suggests the use of a light meter to determine the correct intensity.

Hudson (13) claims that "marginal burnings and leaf and flower malformations result from too much exposure to strong sun, especially during the summer months."

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Holley (11) writes, "too much sun (in summer) causes the foliage to become lighter in color, so moving the plant to a north or northeast window is a good practice." And also, "African violets need some sunshine if they are to flower their best in winter. You have a very slim chance of success if your plant is not near a sunny window or directly in a north window. -- In summer, they flower well in indirect light, and when the sun is hot in spring or fall they benefit from the shade of a light drapery. Plants in north windows during the winter tend to flower periodically, while those grown in sunny windows flower continuously, provided other conditions are favorable."

According to Kenneth Post (21) of Cornell University "flowering is not related to temperature or to day length but has been found to be affected by light intensity. The foliage becomes light green in color when the light intensity is high or the temperature is low, or when the nitrogen supply is reduced. This is generally accompanied by good flowering. While the foliage is a darker green and the plants are more vigorous at a low light intensity, flowering is less profuse. The most likely reason for poor flowering in the home is a low light intensity. More shading is required in the spring as the light intensity increases. It should also be removed gradually as the light becomes less intense with the approach of winter."

Less work has been reported on the possible effect of soil pH but several of the authorities quoted above have also expressed opinions on this phase. For example, Roberts (22) states that the "soil should have a pH of around 6.0."

Hudson (14) reports that at the National Saintpaulia Show in Atlanta in the fall of 1947, W. D. Holley discussed the results of growing Saintpaulias in acid and alkaline soils and stated that"acid conditions seemed to produce better leaf and flower colors even though the African violet grows in limestone regions in its natural state."

Helen Van Pelt Wilson (26) also mentions the effect of soil acidity on leaf and flower color. She notes that "acidity brings out redness in leaves and deepens the blueness of blossoms." She also quotes Ferne Kellar's experience in Des Moines who claims that she cannot grow African violets in acid soil but must have a soil testing around pH 7.0.

At this time several points should be made. First, much of the published work has been done by amateurs who usually observe a small number of plants. This does not include Helen Van Pelt Wilson, W. D. Holley, Evan Roberts, C. J. Hudson Jr. and Kenneth Post who have all written recent books and articles which are quite authoritative. Second, the Saintpaulia will apparently do quite well as a house plant under a variety of conditions provided these are kept within certain limits. Third, it is not a difficult plant to grow once the fundamentals of its culture are

known. Its universal popularity and appeal attest the challenge it offers to millions to learn its requirements.

In summing up and evaluating the environmental factors which have been recorded to date a number of statements can be made.

1. The optimum temperature should be between 65 and 75 degrees F., with a minimum around 60 degrees F. and a maximum undetermined. However, they do well in the greenhouse where summer temperatures are often over 90 degrees.

2. Light intensity is important but day length (photoperiod) has little or no effect. In the winter when the sun is far to the south and the angle of incidence of the sun's rays is large they require as much light as possible. But they must be shaded from the direct rays of the sun in summer or severe burning will result. The effect of artificial light to compensate for the many cloudy days of a Michigan winter has not been studied to the author's knowledge.

3. The consensus of opinion seems to favor subirrigation of the plants whenever the top of the soil in the pot begins to dry out. Holding the soil constantly moist has grown good plants in the Michigan State College greenhouse but Hudson (13) claims that plants grown in this manner will suffer damage in a year or so. He thinks that it is due to a toxic condition built up in the soil and also a greater susceptibility to crown rot.

4. The soil pH for African violets should fall between 6.0 and 7.0 with the majority of growers favoring the lower half of this range. In a test conducted in the greenhouse three plants at 7.5 pH (by the addition of $CaCO_3$) bloomed well but the leaves were lighter in color and there were fewer blossoms per plant than on three plants held at pH 6.5.

5. After surveying the literature the nutrient requirements of **Saintpaulia** were little clearer than before. As noted above, many opinions were expressed but most were in terms of soils, manures, composts, etc. which are so variable that few conclusions could be drawn. The main conclusion based on the articles read would have to be that the plant is adaptable and will grow well in almost any potting compost ordinarily used for greenhouse pot plants.

The plants used were **Saintpaulia ionantha,** variety **Blue Boy** and were obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Ed Wangbickler of the West Side Greenhouse in Inkster. After receipt they were carried without additional feeding until they were yellowed and had presumably utilized most of the available nutrients in the pots.

The soil used was Coloma sand and was obtained through the courtesy of Dr. Ray Cook of the Soils Department. This soil was selected because it was low in nutrients and organic matter and would have a minimum effect upon the nutrients added. As noted later this presumption was discovered to be somewhat in-

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accurate. The original soil was tested in the testing laboratory of the Soils Department and was found to contain 2 pounds of available phosphorus per acre (0.25 ppm.), 49 pounds of potash per acre (approximately 5 ppm.) and to have a reaction of ph 6.0. Nitrogen was tested with the Simplex Soil Test Outfit and found to be 5 ppm. All further soil tests were made with the Simplex Soil Test Outfit as developed by Dr. C. H. Spurway (24).

Four-inch pots were decided upon as a satisfactory size for small **Saintpaulias** and proved to be ideal as the plants never required shifting. The pots were painted on the inside with asphalt paint to aid in the moisture control and to prevent the absorption of nutrients by the pots. The original intention was to seal the pots and control the watering by periodically bringing them up to a standard weight. However, it was felt that this might not be feasible in four-inch pots so subirrigation by means of saucers was substituted as a means of supplying water.

It was found that a four inch pot held 700 grams of the soil and still left approximately one-half inch of space at the top so all calculations were based on this figure.

The only elements studied in this experiment were the three major nutrient elements -- nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium -- although other anions and cations were added. This might well be one source of error as no account was made or attempted of these other elements. The nutrient carriers used were as follows:

Sodium nitrate ($NaNO_3$) for nitrates, anhydrous monocalcium phosphate ($CaH_4(PO_4)_2$) for phosphorus and potassium sulphate (K_2SO_4) for potash.

The molecular weight of $NaNO_3$ is 85 and the weight of the nitrate radical (NO_3 is tested for in the Simplex method instead of nitrogen as this is thought to be the major form in which plants use nitrogen). Dividing 85 by 62 gives a constant value of 1.37 as a conversion factor from NO_3 to $NaNO_3$. Similarly the conversion factor from P to $CaH_4(PO_4)_2$ is 7.8 and from K to K_2SO_4 is 4.46.

By setting up a proportion as follows:

$$40 : 1{,}000{,}000 : x : 700$$
$$1{,}000{,}000x = 28{,}000$$
$$x = 0.028 \text{ grams}$$

It was determined that theoretically 0.028 grams of NO_3 was needed in 700 grams of soil to furnish 40 ppm. Then by multiplying 0.028 grams by the conversion factor 1.37 we get 0.03836 grams of $NaNO_3$ needed. Stock solutions were made up on this basis using 3.8 grams $NaNO_3$ per liter to provide 40 ppm of NO_3 in 10 ml. of the solution as outlined in detail by Jackson (16). In a similar manner five other solutions were made up to carry 300 ppm. NO_3, 10 ppm P, 100 ppm. P, 20 ppm. K and 200 ppm. K. These were sufficient to cover all proposed treatments which ranged as follows:

Treatment No.	ppm. NO_3	ppm. P	ppm. K
1	Check no additions to Isabella sand		
2	0	10	20
3	20	10	20
4	40	10	20
5	60	10	20
6	100	10	20
7	200	10	20
8	300	10	20
9	40	0	20
10	40	2.5	20
11	40	5	20
12	40	20	20
13	40	50	20
14	40	100	20
15	40	10	0
16	40	10	10
17	40	10	30
18	40	10	50
19	40	10	100
20	40	10	200

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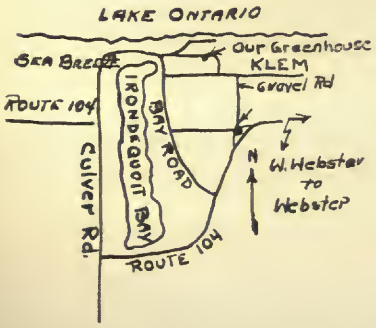

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The injury was characterized by plasmolysis and browning of the leaf petioles near the crown and in most cases by the apparent death of the crown bud.

On December 3 the following sixteen were removed and new plants were placed in the same soil and pots:

	3B	3C
	4B	4C
	5B	5C
	6B	6C
7A	7B	7C
8A	8B	8C
	9B	9C

This indicated the extreme sensitivity of the roots to the $NaNO_3$ except in the A series where gradual addition and several mixings had reduced the toxic effect.

Within 24 hours the entire 7 and 8 treatment groups again showed definite discoloration of the bases of the petioles and by December 20 the following plants were dead:

	4B	
	5B	
7A	7B	7C
8A	8B	8C

By January 10 the following plants had died:

	5C	
6B	6C	

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Three pots were established at each nutrient level and these were identified by the letters A, B and C, so each pot carried a treatment number and a letter.

Although the soil used was very sandy it had a considerable fixing capacity for the nutrients added and four or five additions had to be made before the desired test values were obtained. Consequently the amount of sodium nitrate added was six times the calculated amount, eight times as much $CaH_4(PO_4)_2$ was added as figured and eight times as much K_2SO_4. In order to reduce the amount of testing necessary all additions except the first and the last were made to the A series of pots only. That is, after the first addition and consequent testing of all 60 pots the next four additions and tests were made to the A series of pots only and the soil was removed from the pots and mixed thoroughly on an oilcloth after each addition and before each test. Then when the soil test reached the desired level in the A pots the total amount of nutrients required to give the proper test was added to pot series B and C and was mixed in thoroughly. This explanation has been given because of the great difference in effect upon the plants as will be noted later.

After the soil nutrient levels had been established the plants were potted over a three or four day period. The roots were washed clean of soil and plants were transplanted bare rooted. Single crown plants as uniform as possible were used.

Because high levels of nutrients were used and because the plants were transplanted bare rooted into rather concentrated solutions, at least in some cases, injury was expected. Within 48 hours after potting ten plants were apparently dead and six were more or less severely injured.

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By January 31 the plants in the high potash range had died as follows:

19A 19C

20B 20C

By March 23 these plants were dead:

10A 10B

Of the other plants repotted on December 3; 3B and 3C showed little or no injury, 4C lived but was very poor, and 9B and 9C lived and became fair plants.

There was little doubt that washing all of the old soil from the roots caused some injury as many of the plants lost leaves and remained flaccid for some time. Also transplanting into soil containing soluble salts in varying concentrations must have caused injury. Perhaps an established plant would be able to withstand 50 or 60 ppm. of nitrates but it appeared to be harmful in the potting soil, especially when the phosphorus was fairly low.

To be continued in the June African Violet Magazine.

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Springtails are the tiny greyish-white fast moving insects that crawl over and jump around on the soil, on the bottoms and sides of the pots, in the watering trays or saucers, or they may be seen floating around on the surface of the water you have just used for watering your plants. Of course, it goes without saying that the springtails are not in the water, but live in the soil in which your African violet is growing. They apparently feed on the decaying material and the humus present in the soil, and do no damage that is known, except to deflate the grower's pride.

There is no need for alarm. Springtails may be controlled:

1. By watering with a mild solution of N. N. O. R. used at the rate of ¼ teaspoonful to the quart of warm water. Pour on the top of the soil and let it drain through. Pour off the residue.

2. Clorox water may also be used -- a teaspoonful to the pint of warm water. Pour through the soil and pour off the residue from the saucer or the jardinier.

3. A mild solution of Optox may be used, if you prefer. It is a dependable insecticide and is used at the rate of 1 ounce to 3 gallons of warm water.

4. A light application of Endopest, Destroy or any of the dust sprays that contain D. D. T. may be successfully used. Dust the soil under the leaves, dust the pot, the saucers, the sand or gravel the plants are standing on. The springtails should soon disappear.

So far as is known, springtails do not attack the foliage of Saintpaulias and are generally not harmful, if not too numerous.

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Upon this side of heaven.

Agnes J. Bott

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

TECUMSEH NEBRASKA

At the November meeting of the Tecumseh African Violet Society the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Pearl Kent
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Gertrude Kelley
Secretary,	Mrs. Dorothy Hertzel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Lola Taylor

In December a covered dish Christmas dinner was held at the home of Mrs. Mildred Broady, retiring president.

TORONTO CANADA SOCIETY

The African Violet Society of Toronto, Canada, was formed the last of November with a membership of ten, all members of the National Society. Meetings are held in the members' homes on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p. m.

The following officers were elected for one year:

President,	Mrs. D. A. Marshall
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. H. Wilson
Treasurer,	Mrs. V. C. Roche
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. F. L. Addison
Membership Secy.,	Mrs. W. N. Yielding

DETROIT MICHIGAN CLUB

The Detroit African Violet Club was organized on August 15, 1951, and now has a membership of six who also belong to the National Society. Meetings are held in the members' homes on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The by-laws were agreed upon and passed and the membership limited to ten members. Officers elected for one year are:

President,	Dorothy Reaume
Vice-Pres.,	Ida Aboud
Secretary,	Caroline Biel
Treasurer,	Olive Foster

TRENTON CLUB

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey held their election of officers in December. The following officers were elected for 1952:

President,	Edgar Harris
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Walter Minschwaner
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Ruddick
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Thomas Everist
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Charles Hyer

OMAHA TEA

The Omaha African Violet Club members held their fifth annual Birthday Tea on Thursday, December 13, 1951 at 1 o'clock in the Print Room of Joslyn Art Museum. A short business meeting was held and an exchange of leaves among the members and guests from Hastings and Tecumseh, Nebraska, also Sioux City, Iowa. Preceeding the tea,Mrs. J. W. Hoffman installed officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President,	Mrs. Howard Martin (re-elected)
Vice Pres.,	Mrs. T. E. Davis (re-elected)
Secretary,	Mrs. John Smith
Treasurer,	Mrs. H. B. Gipson
Corres. Sec'y.,	Mrs. Geo. Holmes

For five consecutive Thursdays of November the members and guests participated in an African Violet Tour among the membership and a special tour chartered by Greyhound into Des Moines, Perry and Council Bluffs.

The Fifth Midwest Annual African Violet Exhibit will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at Joslyn Art Museum in the Floral Court on Saturday March 29th, 1952 from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. and on Sunday March 30th, 1952 from 10 a. m. to 6 p. m., being sponsored by the membership of the Omaha African Violet Club. The public is cordially invited to attend.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Elite African Violet Club of Chicago, Illinois, held their Christmas meeting at the home of Mrs. Lane Cooper with a gift exchange among the members.

Mrs. E. G. Magill of Aurora, Illinois, was the guest speaker.

Each member donated one or more plants to be given to the ladies of the Augustana Home for the Aged.

Mrs. Henry Hilty and Mrs. Rose Trendler were the hostesses for the day.

MANHATTAN KANSAS

On October 16, 1951, the Manhattan, Kansas, African Violet Society was formed with fourteen members present.

The following officers were elected:

President,	John Coryell
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. R. R. Bennett
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Louis Ellsworth

It was decided that the first few meetings would be devoted to round-table discussions and question and answer periods.

DARIEN CENTER NEW YORK

The Community African Violet Club of Darien Center, New York, was formed March 17, 1951, with twenty-nine members from Erie and Genesee counties. Meetings were held the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Isaac Sharick
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Orman Richert
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Walter Dehn

TRENTON NEW JERSEY

The African Violet Club of Trenton, New Jersey, held their second annual joint luncheon meeting with clubs from Salem and Gloucester County, New Jersey, and Springfield, Delaware County, Penn., at the White Gate restaurant on September 8, 1951. There were forty members present.

Each club took part in the entertainment. The Salem County Club showed colored slides of different varieties and growing habits of the African violet.

Mrs. Ralph Frye of the Springfield Club gave an interesting talk on her experience with seedlings.

Mrs. Betty Skelton of the Trenton Club had prepared an African violet quiz. Violet plants were given as prizes to the one having the most correct answers. Mrs. Jessie Lewis of the African Violet Society of Salem County won first prize and Mrs. Philip Filing of the African Violet Society of Springfield, Penn., won second prize.

ADDISON MICHIGAN

The Bean Creek Valley Society met at the home of Mrs. Helen McGill, Addison, Michigan, on Tuesday afternoon, October 9, 1951, for the second anniversary of the local club's origination with nine members present.

During the business session officers for the new club year were elected as follows:

President,	Mrs. Eugene Ruder
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ollie Safe
Secy-Treas.,	Mrs. Winifred Clement

Program plans for the new year were discussed. It was decided that the hostess for each meeting should make a table, buffet or mantel arrangement featuring African violets appropriate for a holiday in the month or in keeping with the season of the year. Plans are being made to have practical demonstrations on violet culture as part of several of the years' programs. The Jackson, Michigan, African Violet Club will present a program at the April, 1952, meeting and the local club will return a program in May.

PORTLAND OREGON

In June, 1951, the Portland, Oregon, African Violet Society sponsored an African violet show for non-members and held an open forum meeting at the same time. Various subjects of African violet culture were discussed, such as lighting, watering, fertilization and disease control. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baker described their "white room" where they are growing violets under fluorescent lights.

Prizes for single crown plants went to Mrs. Jack Raab and Mrs. Berkey, both of Vancouver, Washington. For multiple crown plants, Mrs. F. Berkey of Vancouver; Mrs. E. G. Chuinard and Mrs. G. E. Spencer of Portland won the prizes.

SIOUX CITY IOWA

The Siouxland African Violet Society was organized in October, 1951, at the Art Center in Sioux City with twenty-two persons present.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Miss Maude Ellen Lynch
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Vernie Larson
Secretary,	Mrs. John Adair
Treasurer,	Mrs. Earl Waters

Fifty guests were present at a tea honoring the newly elected officers given at the Art Center on December 6, 1951. Mrs. E. Ray and Mrs. B. C. Smith were on the hostess committee and Mrs. A. L. Domke and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Jr., were in charge of the arrangements.

AFRICAN VIOLET SHOWS

SHOW AT AKRON

Plans are under way for the Greater Akron African Violet Society Annual Show, which will be held May 19 and 20, 1952, at O'Neil's second floor auditorium. May 19th hours will be from 2: P. M. until 9: P. M. and May 20th hours will be from 10: A. M. until 4: P. M.

The show is under the direction of Mrs. Harold Dannemiller, chairman and Mrs. T. A. O'Neil co-chairman who will be assisted by Mrs. John Martin and Mrs. Gertrude Palmer.

WICHITA SHOW

The Wichita Saintpaulia Society of Wichita, Kansas, will have its first show April 19 and 20 in the show rooms of the local Cadillac dealer. Mrs. Paul J. Newman is president.

GREENVILLE S. CAROLINA

The Greenville, South Carolina, African Violet show will be held April 7 and 8 at Sears Shelter, 16 East Park Ave. Mrs. Ed Copeland is chairman of the show. Mrs. J. W. Brabham is president.

SHOW AT TECUMSEH

Tecumseh, Nebraska — April 19 and 20, 1952
Tecumseh Community Building

MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN

The Milwaukee County African Violet Society will hold its first show on Friday, April 18th in the Wisconsin Room of the Anthenum on East Kilbourn Avenue. Mrs. Willard S. Harland is general chairman.

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

The African Violet Society of Hastings, Nebraska will hold an African Violet Exhibit on April 8th. A special feature will be the Invitation or Guest Table . . . for details you are invited to contact Mrs. Garth Osterhout of Hastings.

1952

INTRODUCING

- **GRAND AWARD** - The violet judged best of all unnamed seedlings exhibited at the N. A. V. C. in Dayton. Truly the Giant of Doubles, flowering with huge medium-blue blossoms (many with yellow eye), borne on erect stems. Foliage is large and medium green, contributing to the stately aspect of the plant. Our choice for the Monarch of Doubles. (Illus.) $2.50
- **BRUSSELS SPROUTS** - Every collector will want this plant, regarded as the most unusual of African violets by visitors at the last N. A. V. C. The double flowers are leafy in texture, deeply serrated and varying from greenish white to medium blue in color. The "Parrot Tulip" of the Saintpaulia family. Supply still very limited. $2.50
- **APOLLO** - Handsome light blue flowers are borne on sturdy stems. The semi-double blooms resemble singles but have a small rosette of petals surrounding the yellow eye. Most important, the flowers do not drop. $2.00
- **PETITE** - An outstanding light blue double with clusters of small, perfectly formed blooms. Red coloration on underside of leaves adds particular distinction. $1.50
- **TEAR DROP** - A dainty variety with small semi-double baby blue blooms. Flowering is profuse and well grown plants are a mass of bloom. $2.00
- **ALMA WRIGHT** - Our wonderful new white double, ready for release this coming fall.

Several fine new varieties are planned for the coming year, including new Fringettes of different hues and improved characteristics. For complete descriptions write for our new Free 1952 catalogue. And for a direct preview, visit our booth at the N. A. V. C. in Chicago.

FOR VIOLETS OF TOMORROW LOOK TODAY TO

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Tinari's Pink Luster

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Colored picture on magazine cover, also appearing in full color on the jacket of Helen Van Pelt Wilson's new "Complete Book of African Violets." The beauty, lovely form, leaf pattern, profusion of bloom and vigorous growing quality of this new pink give it outstanding collector and commercial value.

We are accepting orders on this variety for fall. $5.00 each

We reserve the right to limit quantity on orders accepted.

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WINE VELVET — Deepest single wine red to date. Lush forest green foliage. a real beauty that holds its color well. $1.50 each.

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PURITY — (Pure White Double Flowering) $2.00 each.

RUFFLED BEAUTY — Interesting bronze red girl foliage, deep Lavendar Bi-Color flowers $2.00 each.

Tinari's America, Navy Bouquet, Marine Bouquet, Ruby Bouquet, Velvet Bouquet, Ruffles Bouquet $1.25 each.

Mammoth Red, Star Sapphire, Geneva Star, Delaware $1.00 each.

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Rainbow Geneva, Fantasy, White Girl, Lavendar Girl Hybrid, Snow Prince, Helen Wilson, Blue Chard, Red King, Blue Warrior, Amazon Blue Eyes, Amazon Purple Prince, DuPont Lavendar Pink, Gorgeous Bi-Color, Lady Geneva, Neptune, Purple Girl, Sailor Girl, DuPont Blue, Burgundy, Plum Satin, Crinkles, Ruffles, Tinted Lady, Double Orchid, Mentor Boy, Violet Beauty 75c each.

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Tinari's Blue Eyes, Jessie, Double Russian, Pink Beauty, White Water Lily, Purple Prince, Red Land, Amethyst.

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JUNE 1952 VOLUME 5 NUMBER 4

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$3.25 postpaid

- **Fringed Dark Burgundy**
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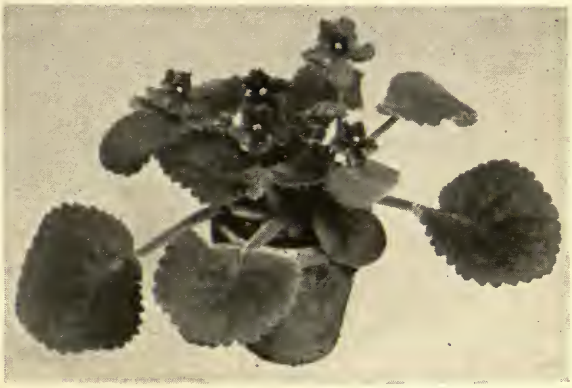

HERE'S an African Violet that will catch the eye of every visitor!

Extra heavy flower stalks always carry more than 5 huge buds, and the edges of each petal are so heavily ruffled and frilled that they have an appearance of being edged with lace of a lighter shade than the rest of the wide-open flowers!

As each bud unfolds it is a joy to behold! The crinkled petals have such heavy substance that you can hardly wait until it attains full size and true color . . . a blue burgundy that is a bit darker than Purple Dawn. The reverse of each WIDELY OPENED flower is a real novelty also, reminding you of starched ruffles!

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- **Was "tops" last season**
- **Lots of big flowers**
- **Rich orchid with dark tips**

LOOK at the photograph, for it tells you more than words can describe! Clean-cut and adorable.

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Pink Delight	Lacy Girl
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LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE

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DESCRIPTION OF LAZY SUSAN PLANT TREE

- EASILY HOLDS FIFTY PLANTS
- HAS FOUR SHELVES 10", 16", 22" AND 28" IN DIAMETER
- HEIGHT 55" — WEIGHT 23 LBS.

Shipped Knocked Down Flat
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These attractive and sturdy Lazy Susans display your beautiful plants and make it easy to water and change position which is so necessary to proper plant culture.

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These stands are highly decorative as well as useful for any room in your home.

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could not begin to tell the story of **PINK CHEER** as well as the front cover of this magazine. The beauty of this, our own introduction,* is there for all to see.

The story, however, is not quite complete.

Those who saw **PINK CHEER** at the National Convention will be quick to agree that the picture doesn't do justice to the color of bloom. **PINK CHEER** is truly the deepest rose pink yet seen.

PINK CHEER WILL BE SHIPPED

We are accepting mail orders (on this variety only) for immediate delivery.

Plants are strong 2¼" in bloom. They will be shipped in plastic pots to help insure good condition upon arrival.

Price . . . $2.50 Postpaid

*See Registration report, March '52 "African Violet Magazine", page 50

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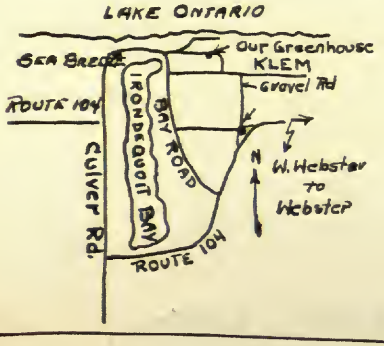

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"ORIENTAL" A PRIZE winning variety at the National African Violet Show in Philadelphia. You have been awaiting this striking variety, here it is for $2.50 each. "CALIFORNIA RED" the reddest African violet we have seen. According to the story circulated through the Grapevine there is quite a mystery connected with the origin of this variety $2.50 each.

Circular on Varieties shown at the Chicago Show upon request.

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African Violet Magazine

A Quarterly Publication

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MY SMALL COLLECTION OF AFRICAN VIOLETS

Mai M. Freyre, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

Since two years ago I began my collection of African violets, buying plants from the States and from some plant growers of the Island. Up to date I possess more than thirty varieties of them. Among them I have several plants of the S. grotei (creeping) of a Purple Blue Color and some rare different varieties. The Saintpaulia grotei seems to be like a hanging basket, it is wonderful.

Here in Puerto Rico, we have many enthusiasts of this beautiful house plant and in spite of that many of the African violet lovers say that this tropical climate of our beautiful Island is harmful to them, they grow wonderfully and are profuse bloomers.

I am a lover and admirer of flowers, and this is my hobby, but since I came in relation with this marvelous little plant, they have my preference.

I possess nowadays more than six hundred plants and I am just beginning in my home a small African violet business.

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20-oz size 15-30-15 All Soluble Liquid Fertilizer Regular $1.25 (for feeding African Violets and other house plants). Kapsulate (30 capsules) Regular $1.25 value **ALL for TWO DOLLARS**

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First with the Latest and the Best

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Yes, the most wonderful **RED AFRICAN VIOLET**, positively the **REDDEST** we know of. Translucent crimson. It is not scarlet, but a pure glowing wine-red.
We are offering this charming plant with the understanding that it will be available July or August—if possible in bud or bloom. By ordering now you may be assured of enjoying this **BRILLIANT** and **CERTAINLY UNIQUE RED** in full bloom in your own home this winter. Take our word for it, beautiful Red Princess is the one and only **TRUE CRIMSON VIOLET** well worth waiting for. Orders placed now will be filled strictly in rotation. Each $2.50.

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Glowing cerise cast even deeper
At the throat

Truly the most exquisite companion
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Known for Quality Plants

THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU —

Plans are being made now for the 1953 program at the meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Suggestions from YOU would be most welcomed by the Program Committee.

Write to:

MRS. JAMES B. CAREY
601 Garden Avenue
Fountain City, Tenn.

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Advertising rates on request.

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Change of address: Send your new address at least 30 days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect. Send old address with the new, enclosing if possible your address label.

Remember Chicago

Our convention was the largest in our short history. Those who did not attend surely missed a grand meeting with an African Violet fellowship that cannot be surpassed.

We want to sincerely thank Mrs. William H. Fowkes, General Chairman; Mrs. Elmer Szontagh, Co-Chairman; Mrs. E. G. Magill, Program Chairman and all the local members who made this convention the grand success that it was. Our thanks are also extended to the commercial exhibitors -- and to those who very generously contributed the many prizes and surprises which were given out all during the convention.

One of the foremost features of the convention was the participation of the Affiliated Chapters or Societies. This was most evident in the interestingly competitive amateur show -- which is coming more and more to the front as a truly great highlight of our convention. Your Board has appointed Mrs. E. G. Magill as Chairman of Affiliated Chapters. Your Board also voted unanimously that after January 1, 1953 no group would be allowed to retain 50¢ of a membership for its treasury unless it was an Affiliated Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Briefly the necessary qualifications for affiliation are:

1. At least 25% of each Chapter's local members must also be members of African Violet Society of America.
2. All officers of each Affiliated Chapter must be members of African Violet Society of America.
3. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its Constitution and By-laws, and all amendments thereto, to African Violet Society of America.
4. Each Affiliated Chapter must submit a copy of its entire membership, including a list of the names and addresses of its officers, to African Violet Society of America. Such list to be composed of the names and the addresses of all local members. These lists to be submitted once each year immediately after the election of new officers by Affiliated Chapters.
5. Each Affiliated Chapter must pay to African Violet Society of America an annual Membership Fee of $2.50.

Nashville, Tennessee is our next convention city with Mrs. Arthur Radtke representing our Society as Chairman. Mrs. W. C. Dalton is the General Chairman; and Mrs. James B. Carey of Fountain City is Program Chairman. Progress is already being made with plans for a bigger and better convention.

Husbands and wives may attend the Annual Meeting and share a membership with one vote. It may be necessary to limit attendance at the banquet due to somewhat smaller facilities and I would surely advise getting your reservations and registrations in early -- when the proper time comes!

One of the many surprises of the Chicago Convention was the appearance of appropriate Binders for your issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. These are now available from our Editor and you will find information on page 42 of this issue.

Congratulations to Mrs. Eunice Mercer, Treasurer of the Metropolitan African Violet Club of Washington, D. C., and to Mrs. E. T. Huber of the Viking African Violet Society for their generous donations to our Research Fund. Also to the Akron, Ohio African Violet Society for their very nice donation.

I especially want to thank the members of the Board for their faithfulness in their regular attendance to the many sessions. Without their wise judgment our Society would not be able to progress as rapidly as it has! ! ! !

Sincerely,

Floyd L. Johnson

Left, photo shows three shades of blossoms -- deep violet, mauve and white.

Below, plant with pink blossoms.

COUSIN

STREPTOCARPUS

I have often wondered if plants like people have some relation that they are not too proud of and when they speak about them they use that hush, hush, voice -- if they speak about them at all . . . The Streptocarpus and Saintpaulia both belong to the same family; and from my limited experience with the former, the African violet has nothing to be ashamed of when she claims the Streptocarpus for a first cousin.

Streptocarpus: The common name is Cape Primrose and it originally came from South Africa and Madagascar. The Greek words meaning twisted fruit gives it it's name and the seed pod bears this out as it grows into a narrow twisted pod that looks just as though someone HAD twisted it.

There are several species: S. dunni, S. rexi, S. kewensis and S. wendlandi. S. dunni is the most striking species, I believe, as it is said to produce a single leaf up to 2 feet long with violet-blue flowers on stems 2 to 2½ feet high. The description sounds most interesting and I am sorry to say that I have not grown it as yet. I am familiar with S. rexi and I grew a number of these one year and they produced their lovely small mauve

A small plant growing from a leaf cutting is in the foreground. Seed pods are shown behind the leaf and young plant to show the shape and size of a developing pod.

Martha Mears, Ind.

flowers with a purple stripe at the throat, quite abundantly. After they had flowered for a winter and a summer they died. I have since been told that they are biennial and whether this is true or not they did not stay with me very long.

My interest in the Streptocarpus was aroused many years ago, long before the Saintpaulia was as popular as it is today. It was through a Gesneria Round Robin which discussed all of the plants in the Gesneriaceae family of plants . . . that I gathered the following information. I am giving some notes made then:

PROPAGATION BY SEED

Use a covered container which has been filled with equal parts of finely sifted peat moss and sand with a little charcoal or broken pot in the bottom of the container for drainage. Place the seed lightly on the surface of the peat and sand and press in -- do not cover them -- just press them into the mixture. Cover the container and keep in the shade until the little seeds begin to come up.

As soon as the young leaves are about ½ inch tall pot into a 2½ inch pot. Remember to always use drainage in the bottom of the pot . . . as the plants grow repot them into 4 inch pots. Three year old specimen plants will reach a spread of 24-30 inches with up to 100 blossoms if they are properly cared for. (So they said!)

PROPAGATION BY DIVISION

This seems to be the easiest and quickest method to increase your supply of Streptocarpus. The mature Streptocarpus plant has a rhizome like growth from which the leaves grow. By cutting this rhizome in sections each containing some leaves and roots -- just as you would separate a multiple crown African violet plant -- you may repot the new plants into good soil and they will produce a full grown Streptocarpus plant for you. This may be done at any time of the year if the plants are not in bloom. (For goodness sake, do not move them while they are flowering --)

PROPAGATION BY LEAF CUTTING

Leaf cuttings may be handled in the same manner as one does African violets or begonias. The large lateral veins are cut thru and the leaf pegged down on moist sand or the leaf stem end may be inserted in moist sand, peat moss, vermiculite or sphagnum moss. Small plantlets will appear at the base just as the African violet produces it's little plants. This method of propagating does work very well and strong plantlets will soon appear. If you use a battery jar or other covered container instead of a pot or growing flat do be mindful that the leaf does not get too damp and rot. The same care as one gives the Saintpaulia seems to to be adequate in growing a healthy young Streptocarpus.

Cont. on Page 56

SOILS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

H. G. Harvey, Ga.

Mrs. Genntison -- Gathering woods dirt.

The African violet is not very finicky about the soil in which it grows. It has a few definite basic requirements, and it does not care very much how those requirements are met. There are hundreds of ways in which a soil can be built up to meet those requirements, and as a result, there are hundreds of soils in successful use by the Violet amateurs of America today.

Perhaps the most nearly fool-proof formula is the good old reliable "Three Thirds" recipe -- one third soil, one third humus and one third sand. For "soil", one can use woods dirt which is the black soil occurring in a thin layer under trees, more than half leaf mold; good garden soil; the black loam that the Mid-west grows the Nation's corn in; or some river silts. Avoid a clayey soil. For "humus", the field is wide open. Some of the favorites are: leaf mold; well rotted manure; peat moss; and compost. For "sand", use builders or river sand, avoiding the finer packing sea beach sand. Alternate materials are vermiculite and cinders (screened through a quarter inch mesh) but these are both rather tricky; vermiculite because it retains so much moisture and cinders because they retain so little. They are well worthwhile soil materials but are distinctly not fool proof. Mix up equal parts of one material selected from each of the above three lists, and the chances are ninety-five out of a hundred that you will come up with a satisfactory violet potting soil.

It would seem to be good advice to recommend that a person should stick to a good recipe once he has found one and tested it out on his plants. Whether this advice is good or bad, practically no African violet amateur follows it. Nearly all of them are forever tinkering or experimenting with new or modified soils, and the amateur who is using the same soil now as she was eighteen months ago is very much an exception.

So we go into the modifications of the "Three Thirds" formula. In the first place, with most soils, one third sand is more than is required. This is partly because there is generally some sand in the soil part of the formula, and partly, I believe, because one third sand is actually more than is required unless a little clay has crept into the mixture some way. Thus we get to the "Two Fifths" recipe, which is two fifths soil, two fifths humus and one fifth sand. In general, this makes a highly satisfactory mixture, but it is not as universal and safe as the older one.

Next, we run up against the fact that soil and humus are, to a considerable extent, interchangeable. The balanced condition of an equal amount of soil and humus called for in both the Three Thirds formula and the Two Fifths formula is not necessary, and in numerous cases this ratio can be unbalanced with an improvement in the final soil mixture. Generally the unbalance is toward an increase in the amount of humus, with a corresponding decrease in the amount of soil, but this is by no means always the case. African violet soils must be porous, and have about the correct amount of moisture retentivity. While a soil can very easily lack porosity, it does not

Screening

Cow

Manure

appear that it can be too porous for the violet -- at least it is very difficult to make it too porous -- but it can be too moisture retentive, producing a soggy, easily water logged soil, as well as not moisture retentive enough. Most (but not all) humuses are not porous enough and are too moisture retentive by themselves, and the soil is used partly to correct these tendencies. The proportion of soil required to accomplish this result depends upon both the particular humus and the particular soil used. Quite often two or three soils or two or three humuses are used in the same formula to obtain a balanced result. Apparently, within the limits set by the porosity and moisture absorbing requirements, the soil with the highest proportion of humus is likely to be the best soil.

Part of the apparent unbalance is a question of nomenclature. Practically all soils contain humus, some of them, some wood dirts for example, so much that they could very properly be called humus. On the other hand, some composts, usually classed as humus, have a fair percentage of soil. Some soils have such a high proportion of sand that no separate sand ingredient is required. Any

Mrs. Rhodes standing beside a pile of well rotted sawdust.

Mrs. Genntison looks over a pile of Cotton Mote.

time that no sand appears as an item in the recipe, it is a fair assumption that the soil portion of the recipe supplies the sand. The violet does not give a hang where the ingredients come from, whether they appear in the formula or whether they are concealed under some other name, all it in concerned with is the final result.

Finally, we have the "soil modifiers." These are ingredients added to the soil in small amounts to compensate for a deficiency or to obtain a specific result. They are like seasoning in cooking, and the violet enthusiasts have certainly seasoned their soils to taste. Their persistence and ingenuity in searching out new humuses is only exceeded by their curiosity and daring in applying soil modifiers.

Modifiers can be divided into three classes; the inert modifier, the fertilizer modifiers, and the medicinal modifiers. The chief inert modifiers are ground limestone and charcoal. Ground limestone is used to correct excessive acidity in the soil, and to bring the chemical reaction nearer to neutral (pH 7) or beyond it. The quantity, of course, should depend upon the original acidity of the soil, however, an average dose seems to be about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. Alternate materials are crushed oyster shells and fine limestone used in building roads in some parts of the country. Hydrated lime, such as is used in the building trade is not acceptable.

Charcoal is used to "sweeten" the soil. Wood charcoal is used, broken up into small pieces about the size of a pea, and mixed with the soil. Charcoal briquettes, made from sawdust, do not work, as they gradually disintegrate when wet into very fine particles. The quantity of charcoal used is not at all critical, applications vary from two tablespoons to a half cup of charcoal for each three cups of soil. Charcoal has another special use. Quite often it is used to provide drainage in the bottom of the pot, preventing the soil from washing out through the drain hole, and at the same time letting the water through. In most parts of the country, it can be obtained in feed stores, where it is sold to be incorporated with chicken feed, and is known as "chicken charcoal."

This charcoal is already broken up into about the right size pieces.

Fertilizer modifiers are numerous and wide spread. To produce the best flowers, violets must be fertilized. There are two ways of supplying the fertilizer, either in the soil or dissolved in the water used to moisten the soil. Some people depend entirely on fertilizer in the soil, others depend entirely on fertilizers applied when watering the plants, but by far the majority play their cards both ways, putting the basic fertilizer in the soil and supplementing it by periodically adding soluble fertilizers to the water used in watering the plants.

Practically no African violet soil has enough phosphorus to supply the plants' needs, so it is very common to find superphosphate or bone meal in soil formulas to make up for this deficiency. About a tablespoon of either of these ingredients to three cups of soil seems to be about the average practice, and they are not exclusive, that is, a tablespoonful of each of them can be put in the

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SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

(A letter from Austin Ford to Henry Peterson)

Dear Mr. Peterson:

In answer to your letter of Feb. 4, I thought I'd tell in simple words the story of the organisms associated with the diseases of the African violet. either as scavengers which are present incidentally, or as secondary invaders which can enter the plant only when a different kind of organism first makes its entrance.

Plants are the basic food of man. He may eat other animals but they in turn eat plants in order to build up their protein. The large plants we eat manufacture their own food, with the aid of a green substance called chlorophyll, which also gives the green coloring to plant leaves.

Any organism without this chlorophyll cannot elaborate its own food and therefore must derive it at the expense of some other that can. Since there are a number of groups of plants that lost their chlorophyll at one time past, or never had any, these groups have the problem of attacking plants that make their own foods. Such groups of plants are bacteria and fungi. Bacteria are one-celled plants. Fungi are a number of cells in a row, forming a filament, a number of filaments of which together form a white or dark cottony mass such as you see when you lift up a rotten log. This cottony mass is the true body of the fungus and it is called a mycelium. The toadstools and poffballs are only temporary reproductive structures and the main body of the fungus is in the ground.

Bacteria must live off other organisms or organic material living or dead. Man once thought they attacked only animals and fungi only plants, but there are several groups which attack plants also. Bacteria are about 1/50,000 to 1/25,000 of an inch in diameter. 400,000,000 (four hundred million) could fit in a single grain of sugar. Because of their small size they are hard to identify.

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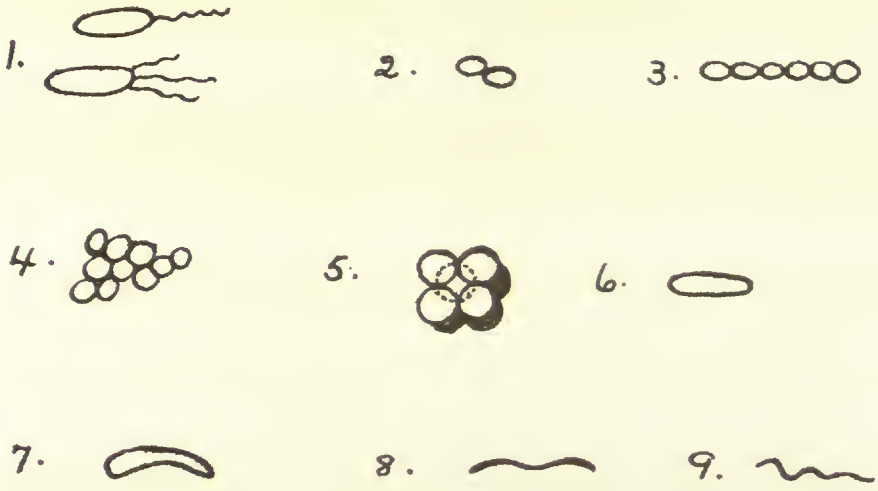
1, Many of them are motile and swim around in moisture, with one to several whip-like structures to propel them. 2, In shape they range from cocci (spherical) which include diplococci, (in pairs) and 3, streptocci (chains). 4, (Strep sore throat), staphylococci (irregular groups) and 5, sarcinae (cubical groups) to cylindrical shapes which include 6, bacilli (short straight rods) 7, vibrio (short curved rods) 8, spirillum (twisted, rigid) and 9, spirachaete (twisted, flexible).



WHY-

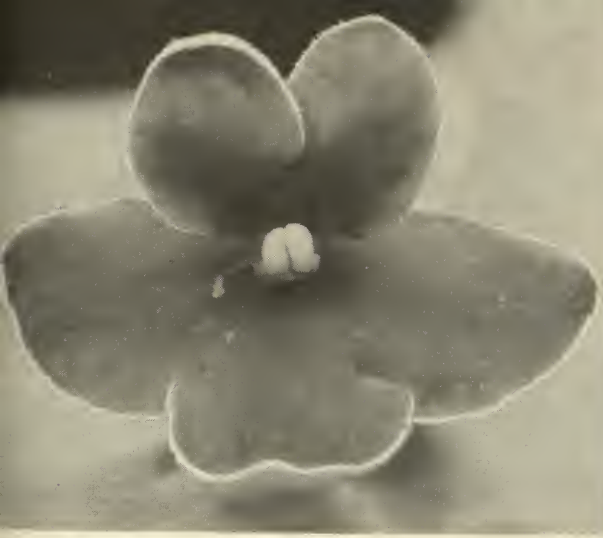
Harriet Lawton, Mass.

In the early days of the African violet and when hybridizing was just getting under way, there came into being a few plants which were patented and they did literally make one's mouth water. At that time there were none to take their places. To propagate and sell necessitated buying 100 wooden labels bearing the name of the owner of the patent rights, the name of the variety and the patent number. Also, an agreement must be signed by the purchaser of these labels that he agrees to abide by the conditions as set forth by the owner of the patent rights. Of course one may resell plants that already have such a label with them when purchased without the additional labels.

Now, to sell 100 plants of one variety is a lot of plants for the small grower. Some wholesalers will sell these labels in lots of 100 to a small grower and be glad to do so. On the other hand I have had the experience of having been turned down by one wholesaler who didn't care to bother with such a small order.

We have therefore prepared a list of patented plants with their alternates for the small grower

Top right, Pink Beauty; Top left, Blue Girl; Center, White Lady; Bottom, Pink Girl.



Lady Geneva blossom.

Gorgeous

NOT SUBSTITUTE

in order that they may propagate and sell plants that are equally as beautiful as the patented varieties and there are now many such plants on the market.

I would like to add that this list of alternates has been prepared by the courtesy of Alma Wright who is familiar with them. Some of them I have raised but many of them are new to me so, like you, will probably be trying them out.

Patented Plant	Alternates:
Pink Beauty	Pink Star, Pink Leatherneck, Dainty Maid, Pink Cheer, Pink Perfection, Pink Rapture, Pink Lady, Mrs. Evelyn Banks, Pink Luster, Pink Delight, Rosie O'Grady.
White Lady	White Sister, White Queen, White King, Snow Prince, White Girl, White Water Lilly, Brown's White, Snow Queen, Thunderhead.
Blue Girl	Emperor Wilhelm, Sailor Girl, Purple Girl, Purple Glory, and all of the **My Lady Series.**
Pink Girl	Pinkie, Pink Princess.
Lady Geneva	Choir Boy and Bridal Wreath.
Gorgeous	Grand Lady and Gypsy Rubra.
Star Sapphire (Pat. app. for)	We do not know of an alternate as yet.

Star Sapphire

FIRST AFFILIATED CHAPTER - The Muscle Shoals African Violet Society

FAMOUS FIRSTS

FIRST LIFE MEMBER -

Mrs. J. E. Mackey, below

Elizabeth Peterson, Calif.

The San Gabriel Valley Chapter of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., honored Mrs. J. Ernest Mackey of Alhambra, California, founder and first president of the chapter, with a life membership in the African Violet Society of America at the regular meeting held November 14, 1951, at the American Legion Hall in Alhambra.

Mrs. Theodore Banks, program chairman, made the presentation for the group in appreciation of Mrs. Mackey's work in organizing the local chapter and serving as president for two and one half years. This is the first time a life membership has been presented by any chapter to their immediate past president. Mrs. Mackey is at present Regional Councilor for the Pacific Coast of the African Violet Society of America, and has organized several chapters in this area and as far north as Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Mackey received another honorary award from Norvell Gillespie on the Ortho Garden Guide Program. A beautiful Vanda orchid lei sent direct from the Hawaiian Islands was presented to her for the wonderful work done in organizing new chapters for the African Violet Society of America.

FIRST GOLD RIBBON -

Left, Mrs. R. Milton Cochrane, African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City.

Ruth Dahnke, Kans.

The African Violet Club of Greater Kansas City held their annual show February 23rd and 24th, in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium. Mrs. Joe Herman Jr., was Show Chairman; Mrs. Robert Montgomery was Assistant Show Chairman.

The Gold Ribbon Award of the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was offered for the first time. Mrs. R. Milton Cochran won with Blue Eyes 97%, Mulberry Girl 96% and Emperor Wilhelm 96%.

Sweepstakes was won by Mrs. George Pendleton. The Tri-color ribbon for Best in the Show was awarded to Mrs. J. R. Bush with Double Neptune.

Of special interest was the Educational table. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seevers displayed a small greenhouse with fluorescent light. The blooming plants inside had never seen daylight. Plants effected by insects and disease were enclosed in large glass jars.

The show was judged by Mrs. Ferne Kellar of Des Moines, Iowa.

FIRST JUDGING SCHOOL -

Memphis and Shelby County Society

Ruby Ward, Tenn.

When I first took over the presidency of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society I realized I had many responsibilities. But the biggest one of all was the planning of our annual African Violet Show. We had two shows previously, and oh, what confusion there was on the day of the show. Classification Chairman, Schedule Chairman, and Entry Chairman all in a huddle with the General Chairman. I realized we were new and had many things to learn, but that we could not take too long to learn, and surely not be the trial and error way. I knew we had Nationally Accredited Flower Show Schools, and that I was a Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judge, but I certainly did not feel qualified to meet all the situations that arose. Judges were hard to secure and when they came, they said they did not know the names of the violets, or what merits they were to be judged on, and as you know ANYONE who grows African violets resents a plant getting a blue ribbon that is not a good horticultural specimen, if it doesn't have symmetry, luxurious foliage, flowers according to variety, -- so with a membership of 300 I knew something had to be done immediately.

I wrote Alma Wright and asked her if there was anyone available who could come to us and instruct us on how to put on an African Violet Show, and how we could have qualified judges. Mrs. Wright replied that such a course was under way and she thought that within 6 months they would be available for the clubs. In January of 1951 I purchased a little "African Violet Handbook on Judging," by Mrs. James G. Carey. I studied that book religiously, so one day I decided to write Mrs. Carey, and ask her if she could give us this much desired information, and in just a few days a reply came from Mrs. Carey saying YES she could give us this course. Immediately plans were under way and on October 25th we had our African Violet Judging School. I thought we were the first club in Western Tennessee to have such a school, but imagine my surprise when Mrs. Carey said we were the first in the United States to have such a school. Thirteen of our ladies took the examination and many sat in on the lecture; so this year when our new president Mrs. Edward Toulon plans for the show, I know it will be an inspiration to know that she has so many qualified people to help. Last year we had approximately 20,000 to visit our show and this year we will be ready with a smile of confidence to welcome twice that many.

MY INTEREST BEGAN . . .

Erna Petrick, Ill.

Mrs. Petrick and Susan Lamp Stand.

All of my life I have loved flowers and never have my window sills been empty . . . When Frank and I were married I wanted to become a real gardener. My new home had many windows and a nice flower and vegetable garden. It reminded me so -- of my home in Europe. At once I went to work planning and buying plants. A nice formal garden was made and in no time it became my pet!

Frank gave me a great deal of worry trimming too close to my beloved flower beds . . . Now and then he snipped a favorite plant off or changed the shape of a flower bed with the power mower. By now I am sure you have guessed that my husband likes to do all the yard work with power equipment -- he does not give time to hand trimming.

A beautiful little bed of sweet violets near my kitchen window gave me an inspiration . . . Why not give the yard to Frank and let him garden there the way he wanted to with his "farm" machines -- and I would take the house for indoor gardening.

This happy solution to our "garden problem" soon found me purchasing African violets. My first did not flower so well . . . but in time when I grew my own from leaf cuttings, successful bloom was mine!

Troubles came my way in the form of Cyclamen mite and nematodes. During this difficulty I became acquainted with the National Society and decided to become a member. My plants, all 250 of them had to be thrown away and I started all over.

I now grow all my plants from leaf cuttings -- except those I purchase from my good friend Rose Peters. New leaves are carefully washed in NNOR before they are put down for propagation. This takes a little more time but it certainly is worth it.

All my windows and tables were full of plants -- so I had to ask Frank for help. He agreed to build me a Lazy Susan plant stand out of a projector table. My strawberry jar was such a joy -- I had it on a stand and turned it a little every day -- it gave me the idea.

My Lazy Susan was soon made and it worked so wonderfully well that everyone who saw it wanted one like it. So another and another was made and Frank began to manufacture them for sale. In the meanwhile, another table with a lamp connected has been designed and is now for sale.

At first I gave my African violets away when people admired them and asked to buy . . . However, as time passed I decided to charge for them and to give the money to German charity. All money I make goes for parcels and postage for the unfortunate German Refugees. These people have been displaced from their homes and have so little as all was left behind when they were forced to leave their homes. My violet money has helped spread a little happiness and has given comfort to helpless and dependent persons far away.

As I watch my violets grow I often wonder, "What will be the next good deed that African violets will do?"

Star News Garden Columnist J. J. Littlefield (left), who is also well-known as a garden lecturer and radio and TV commentator, was almost snowed under when readers of his Sunday column in this paper wrote asking for copies of an African violet pamphlet which he offered to give them. Charles D. (Chuck) Perlee of the Pasadena Star-News staff helps J. J. count the letters.

African Violet Most Floriferous House Plant

J. J. Littlefield, Cal.

Once you're bitten by the African violet "bug" you're sunk! Recently an African violet fan, Miss Marnie Yarrington of Berkeley, visited relatives in Southern California. When she telephoned me I asked her how she heard of me. She answered, "I had my African Violet Society membership list and found your name and address as nearest to where I was staying." Miss Yarrington's statement proves that sincere garden folks are not strangers to each other. That you don't have to be a member of a fraternity, sorority, or a lodge organization in order to find friendship and hospitality in another city, or a strange town.

Following day, Miss Yarrington came over, visited with mother and inspected her African violet collection. We piled into the car and called on Mrs. Edith Mackey, African Violet Society Regional Councilor for the four western states. The visitor from Berkeley was impressed with Mrs. Mackey's violets, some seedlings, rooting leaves, to large potted plant specimens.

I tagged along, and like a six year old, listened to the experts discuss violet culture. Frankly, when these violet "bug bitten" experts speak about crossing these plants in order to get new varieties, they sound like race horse breeders trying to "improve the breed." When those lassies spoke about crossing African violets with the "girls" it got me! I asked, "Why not the boys?"

These experts were just as dramatically descriptive of sizes of their specimen pot plants, as are fishermen when telling and illustrating the size of fish that got away.

It isn't uncommon to find that some African violet fanciers even have those plants in the bath-

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GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH 300 F. C. LIGHT INTENSITY

Naomi S. Weeks, N. Y.

Top bed is 31" above the floor and is 5' wide by 6' long. The battery of 3 lamps can be raised 6' above the floor, for watering or, when customers are selecting plants. The light intensity is 300 foot-candles when lowered about 14" above the pot-tops.

The lower bed is used for propagating and growing-on of small plants. The 2 lamps are stationary, but the bed platform is adjustable. It is 4' wide by 6' long and usually kept 16" below the lamps. The light intensity directly under each lamp is 200 foot-candles, while half way between the lamps it is only 100 foot-candles.

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S. obicularis, about 5/4 natural size. Photo by R. E. Moreau.

SAINTPAULIA OBICULARIS

This most recently introduced African violet plant is a species of Saintpaulia. As stated in the article, "Saintpaulia Species" in the African Violet Magazine, Volume 5, Number I, a species is a category of classification lower than a genus. As far as the species of African violets, or more correctly East African violets, are concerned, consider a species as a representative of distinct groups of wild East African Saintpaulia plants. Usually the group possesses in common one or more distinctive characters and reproduce their characteristics in their offspring. They have the ability to produce plants like themselves. Many of these species are within a comparatively small area of Tanganyika but even within this area they are sharply localized. These species have been growing, or now are growing in their native locations in East Africa and most of the known ones have been introduced into the United States within recent times. Species have a natural beauty as a specimen plant but their main value is their possible use to create new Saintpaulia varieties. Hybridization with varieties has produced seedlings with strikingly different characters than are to be found in the usual varieties of African violets.

Evan Roberts, Mich.

Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt has leaves which are nearly round, hence its name. Its habit of growth is upright. Flowers are nearly white, with a violet-blue circle around the center. It is very floriferous for a species.

In its wild state where it was discovered by Mrs. R. E. Moreau in 1936, this Saintpaulia grows in the West Usambara mountains between Sakarre and Ambangula at an altitude of 4,000 feet where the shade temperature by day reaches 84°. The nights can be quite cold, down to probably 45° in June, July and August. Its favorite site is the bank of a stream though its roots clear the water. Perfect drainage and shade are essential. It was found growing on a low bank of a tiny stream passing under a road near Sakarre and again at Shume at an altitude of between 6,000 and 7,000 feet but on the same mountain block.

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SAINTPAULIA TESTS

Howard Hanchey*

*This Report was submitted for publication by Henry Peterson, Chairman of the Scientific committee. — Editor

ABSTRACT

1. The effect of quantity of artificial light on flower bud initiation, development and plant growth.

The variety being used in this test is Orchid Wonder. Small single crown plants were used to start the test. A night temperature of 60° F. has been maintained. The potting mixture used was 1 part soil, 1 part peat, 1 part well rotted manure and one part sand. The pH is kept at approximately 6.5, with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ -5 ppm, Potash near 2-ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

The plants are being grown under daylight fluorescent tubes. There are three different light intensities, with three different periods of duration.

100 ft. candles	300 ft. candles	600 ft. candles
6 hrs.	6 hrs.	6 hrs.
12 hrs.	12 hrs.	12 hrs.
18 hrs.	18 hrs.	18 hrs.

One hundred plants were placed under each of these light treatments and five plants were sectioned weekly from each treatment, for microscopic study to determine the effect of the treatments on flower bud initiation.

Ten plants were left in each of the treatments and flowers are counted weekly to determine the effect of the treatments on flower bud development and total production. At the completion of the test the dry weight will be determined on the ten plants in each treatment. This will give an indication of the total plant growth.

11. The effect of varying amounts of natural light on the reproductive and vegetative development of Saintpaulia in the greenhouse.

The variety Orchid Wonder is used in this test. Plants were potted in the same mixture, and received the same treatment as those in the previous test.

One hundred plants were placed in each of six cages and covered with cloth layers. Cloth layers were adjusted so that during the Peak light intensity of the day the light intensity would not exceed the stipulated intensity. Light readings are taken every two hours from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. with a light meter, and recorded. The treatments are as follows.

Plot	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)
11	1300
13	1100
15	900
17	700
19	500
21	300

One hundred plants were placed in each of six cages and covered with cloth layers. Light readings are taken every two hours from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. and recorded. The layers of cloth are adjusted every two hours in an effort to maintain all plots at the stipulated light intensity.

The treatments are as follows:

Plot	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)
12	1300
14	1100
16	900
18	700
20	500
22	300

Five plants were sectioned weekly from each treatment to determine microscopically the effect of the various light treatments on flower bud initiation. Ten plants were left in each treatment and flowers are counted weekly to determine the effect of the different light treatments on development and total production of flowers. The dry weight will be determined from these ten plants to ascertain the effect of the treatments on total plant growth.

Insofar as is possible the data obtained from plants grown under natural light will be correlated with the data obtained from plants grown under artificial light.

SAINTPAULIA PROJECT

Howard Hanchey

A. The effect of quantity of artificial light on flower bud initiation, development and plant growth.

1. Objective

a. To determine the daily quantity of light that will promote optimum reproductive and vegetative development in Saintpaulia.

b. To determine the photoperiodic response of the plant.

2. Procedure

a. Plants of the variety Orchid Wonder are being grown with adequate ventilation at a night temperature of 60 degrees F., in a soil mixture consisting of one part of sandy loam, one part well rotted manure, one part sand and one part peat at a pH near 6.5; with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ to 5 ppm, potash near 20 ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

b. Small single crown plants in 2½ inch pots were used to start the test. They were shifted to larger pots when needed.

c. The test is being conducted in an opaque structure. Daylight fluorescent lamps are being used in plots 1 through 9.

d. The test will run approximately 10 months and 900 plants will be used.

e. Plots. Nine plots were set up as follows:

Plot	Number of plants	Light intensity in foot-candles	Light Duration
1	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
2	100	100	12 hrs.
3	100		18 hrs.
4	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
5	100	300	12 hrs.
6	100		18 hrs.
7	100	Fluorescent	6 hrs.
8	100	600	12 hrs.
9	100		18 hrs.

f. Data

1. The test began July 4, 1951.
2. Five plants from each treatment were sectioned weekly for a period of nine weeks.
3. The following data are being collected:

a. Date of flower bud initiation as determined microscopically.

b. The flowering date in each treatment.

c. The number of flowers per plant recorded once per week.

d. The diameter of the foliage spread recorded every two weeks.

e. Determination of dry weight at beginning and end of problem.

B. The effect of varying amounts of natural light on the reproductive and vegetative development of Saintpaulia in the greenhouse.

1. Objective

a. To determine the daily quantity of natural light that is necessary to promote optimum reproductive and vegetative development in Saintpaulia.

2. Procedure

a. The test is being conducted in a greenhouse.

b. Plants of the variety Orchid Wonder are being grown with adequate ventilation, at a night temperature of 60° F., in a soil mixture of 1 part sandy loam, 1 part well rotted manure, and 1 part peat, at a pH near 6.5, with nitrogen at 10-25 ppm, phosphorus 2½ to 5 ppm, potash near 20 ppm, and calcium 150-200 ppm.

c. Small single crown plants in 2½ inch pots were used to start the test. They were shifted to larger pots when needed.

d. Plots. Twelve plots were set up as follows:

Plot	Number of plants	Maximum light intensity (foot-candles)	Treatment
11	100	1300	Leave shade on
12	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
13	100	1100	Leave shade on
14	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
15	100	900	Leave shade on
16	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
17	100	700	Leave shade on
18	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
19	100	500	Leave shade on
20	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.
21	100	300	Leave shade on
22	100	"	Remove shade to maintain max. F. C.

e. Light readings are being made at the leaf level in each plot and recorded every 2 hours from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.

f. Layers of cloth are being used on the plots to give the desired light intensities.

g. Cloth layers are removed when needed to maintain maximum foot-candles.

h. Data:

1. The following data are being collected.

a. The date of flower bud initiation as determined microscopically using 5 plants sectioned weekly until Dec. 1.

b. The flowering date of each treatment.

c. The number of flowers per plant recorded once a week.

d. The diameter of the foliage spread recorded every two weeks.

e. Determination of dry weight at beginning and end of problem.

SAINTPAULIA TESTS (1951-1952)

Howard Hanchey

The 1950-1951 tests at Ohio State University under the auspices of the African Violet Society were continued, even though the fellowship from that organization was no longer available. However, a sum of money was allotted for equipment and Henry Peterson of Cincinnati again generously donated the cuttings. All lamps used were donated by General Electric Company, Nela Park, Cleveland, Ohio, through the courtesy of Joe Ditchman.

The tests in 1951-1952 were conducted primarily to determine the feasibility of producing Saintpaulias under artificial light. However, for comparison purposes and for determination of practicability of the artificial light culture from the standpoint of costs, a separate set was also grown in the greenhouses.

Variety -- Orchid Wonder was used througout the tests. The leaf cuttings were stuck in May and potted in 2½" pots July 1. They were grown temporarily in the greenhouse under intensities varying from 300 to 1,000 f. c. (from morning until noon). On August 2 the tests under varying conditions of artificial light and in the greenhouse were started. October 6 all plants were shifted to 4" pots. The soil mixtures were the same, consisting of one part silt loam, one part sand, one part peat, and one part manure. Superphosphate was added to the soil at the rate of a 4" potful to a wheelbarrow. Additional fertilizers were applied in liquid form (1 oz. ammonium sulphate and 1 oz. muriate of potash to 2 gallons of water once a month).

300 Fc
Orchid Wonder
8 hr
300 Fc
Orchid Wonder
12 hr.

The treatments were divided into two parts. One group was placed in a windowless and insulated basement where relative humidity was maintained at 60% and the temperature at 65° F. Daylight, 40 and 85-watt fluorescent lamps were suspended at varying heights to provide the required intensities of illumination. Each block was separated by black cloth partitions. The treatments in this basement were:

1. 100 f. c. for 6 hours each day
2. 100 f. c. for 12 hours each day
3. 100 f. c. for 18 hours each day
4. 300 f. c. for 6 hours each day
5. 300 f. c. for 12 hours each day
6. 300 f. c. for 18 hours each day
7. 600 f. c. for 6 hours each day
8. 600 f. c. for 12 hours each day
9. 600 f. c. for 18 hours each day

The plots in the greenhouse were as follows:

11. 1300 f. c. on
12. 1300 f. c. off
13. 1100 f. c. on
14. 1100 f. c. off
15. 900 f. c. on
16. 900 f. c. off
17. 700 f. c. on
18. 700 f. c. off
19. 500 f. c. on
20. 500 f. c. off
21. 300 f. c. on
22. 300 f. c. off

The on plots were covered constantly with several thicknesses of cheesecloth which were so arranged to give the maximum reading at noon. As a consequence the light intensity varied greatly during the day. The off plots were so arranged that by making readings every two hours, it was possible by placement or removal of cloths to maintain readings reasonably close to the desired levels for a greater portion of the day.

Table 8. Effect of varying light intensities on number of leaves, number of crowns, and size, Recorded February, 1952.

Plot	Treatment	Average number of leaves per plant	Average number of crowns per plant	Average Diameter in inches
		BASEMENT		
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	22.3	1.2	9.87
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	28.2	1.1	13.60
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	36.9	1.2	14.45
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	28.7	1.2	14.00
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	42.4	1.3	14.95
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	52.3	2.4	13.35
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	44.6	1.3	14.40
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	54.3	2.4	14.15
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	55.7	2.4	13.25
		GREENHOUSE		
11	1300 f. c. - on	78.2	3.9	10.80
12	1300 f. c. - off	81.9	3.6	10.30
13	1100 f. c. - on	72.5	3.6	10.60
14	1100 f. c. - off	87.5	4.4	10.42
15	900 f. c. - on	65.8	3.1	10.95
16	900 f. c. - off	65.8	3.2	10.35
17	700 f. c. - on	65.5	3.1	11.95
18	700 f. c. - off	77.5	3.7	11.40
19	500 f. c. - on	53.6	2.6	11.95
20	500 f. c. - off	63	3.7	11.80
21	300 f. c. - on	60.6	3.1	12.50
22	300 f. c. - off	44	2.4	11.95

The table shows that with an increase in intensity and length of illumination in the basement there was an increase in the number of leaves and increase in crowning. The size as measured by diameter did not change materially above 100 f. c. for 12 hours. Under greenhouse conditions there was a significant increase in the number of leaves in 1100 to 1300 f. c., whereas the crowning remained similar. However, there was an increase in size with decrease of intensity which would be expected. Comparing the plants in the basement with those in the greenhouse, it was noted that although the number of leaves in the basement plants was smaller, even at 600 f. c. for 18 hours, the size of the plant was greater than any in the greenhouse. This increase in size was not due to petiole elongation, but because of the very noticeable increase in size of leaves, which incidentally were extremely dark in color.

2hr
Orchid Wonder
100 Fc
2hr
Orchid Wonder
300 Fc
2hr

Table 9. The effect of light intensities on the number of flower stalks and flowers from September 6, 1951 to February 1952.

Plot	Treatment	Flower stalks per plant	Flowers per plant
		BASEMENT	
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	1.6	2.9
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	9.5	35.6
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	8.1	36.9
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	10.4	34.1
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	18.0	87.7
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	17.4	111.0
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	18.9	91.9
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	22.6	180.8
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	28.3	239.3
		GREENHOUSE	
11	1300 f. c. - on	30.4	178.5
12	1300 f. c. - off	24.5	136.9
13	1100 f. c. - on	26.1	142.6
14	1100 f. c. - off	23.4	130.5
15	900 f. c. - on	23.8	120.8
16	900 f. c. - off	21.7	120.5
17	700 f. c. - on	23.2	113.4
18	700 f. c. - off	23.2	126.9
19	500 f. c. - on	18.4	95.5
20	500 f. c. - off	20.6	104.4
21	300 f. c. - on	15.9	69.9
22	300 f. c. - off	17.9	94.3

This table shows a gradual increase of flower stalk and flower production as intensities rose to 600 f. c. in the basement, the highest being 600 f. c. for 18 hours illumination. In the greenhouse in a similar fashion there was a gradual increase in flower stalks and flowers reaching its height at 1300 f. c. It will be noted, however, that a greater number of flowers was produced in the basement and also that the number of flowers per stalk was greater. In the basement plants than those grown in the greenhouse.

Table 10. Comparison of time required to produce saleable plants -- basement grown vs. greenhouse grown. (Two months were required in the cutting bench to produce young plants with 2-3 leaves which could be potted.)

Plot	Treatment	Length of time to salability
	BASEMENT	
1	100 f. c. - 6 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
2	100 f. c. - 12 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
3	100 f. c. - 18 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
4	300 f. c. - 6 hrs.	Plant good, flowers lacking
5	300 f. c. - 12 hrs.	3½ months
6	300 f. c. - 18 hrs.	3 months
7	600 f. c. - 6 hrs.	5 months
8	600 f. c. - 12 hrs.	3 months
9	600 f. c. - 18 hrs.	2 months

SHADE REMOVED
300 Fc
SHADE REMOVED
500 Fc
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
SHADED

SHADE REMOVED
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
SHADED
SHADE REMOVED
1300 Fc
SHADED

Table 10 continued

Plot	Treatment	Length of time to salability
	GREENHOUSE	
11	1300 f. c. - on	4 months
12	1300 f. c. - off	5 months
13	1100 f. c. - on	4 months
14	1100 f. c. - off	5 months
15	900 f. c. - on	4 months
16	900 f. c. - off	5 months
17	700 f. c. - on	4 months
18	700 f. c. - off	4 months
19	500 f. c. - on	4 months
20	500 f. c. - off	4 months
21	300 f. c. - on	4 months
22	300 f. c. - off	4 months

The record shows that where adequate light itensity and duration were given, the plants under the controlled conditions of heat, humidity, and light developed faster than any of those grown in the greenhouse. In other words, it was possible to produce a good salable plant under 600 f. c. -- 18 hours, in two months after potting. The cost of light installation and the cost of electric current are small in comparison with the results secured. For living room installations, supplemental light, using fluorescent lamps is not only warranted but desirable. The intensity needed may be determined by subtracting from 600 f. c the light available to plants under their present growing conditions. To produce results indicated in the basement experiments, maintenance of adequate humidity (60%) and proper temperature 65° F. is necessary.

***Dr. Howard Hanchey**

R. Howard Hanchey, a graduate student in the Horticulture Department of Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio. An associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at Louisiana State University and associate Horticulturist with the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Hanchey has been on a years sabbatical leave, working on a doctorate degree in Floriculture at Ohio State University.

Under the direction of Henry Peterson and the Scientific Committee which is composed of the following members of the Society: William Carter, Neil C. Miller, Mrs. Theo Greer, Evan Roberts, Mrs. Edwin C. Lotz and Carl Lewis, great progress has been made in the making available of scientific data relating to the growing and production of better Saintpaulias. — Editor.

FLUORESCENT BANDWAGON

Robert and Frances Nicholson, D. C.

If you would like to grow African violets with outstanding foliage, prolific bloom with deeper color, and plants of compact, symmetrical shape, then hop aboard the fluorescent bandwagon. You can operate right in your basement, without a worry about windows or temperature.

The following equipment is required:

(a) One or more two-tube, fortywatt fluorescent light fixtures with reflectors. (Cost -- about $12.50 each.)

(b) Two forty-watt "Daylight" fluorescent tubes for each fixture. ($1.00 each.)

(c) One Automatic Timing Clock Switch. (Approximately $15.00.)

(d) One or more galvanized iron trays, 48" long, 20" wide, and 2½ deep. ($8.00 to $10.00 each.)

(e) One wall thermometer.

One light fixture with reflector will give sufficient light intensity to grow thirty mature plants, (more if the plants are smaller), in three-inch pots placed in the tray. The fixture should be placed so that the measurement from the bottom of the light tube to the top of the three-inch pot is eleven inches. (See your African Violet Magazine, Volume 5, Number 2, dated December 1951, "Results of the Research Work With Saintpaulias at the Ohio State University," Page 21.)

You may construct either a table or a shelf to hold the tray. A table may be made in one to three tiers. Let your requirements determine the amount of your equipment, but take a constructive hint, and build a three-tiered table. You will need it once you start your violet growing under lights. You wait and see.

Set the Automatic Time Switch to give the plants fourteen hours of fluorescent light each day. We have obtained excellent results with a switch-on at 6 A. M., and switch-off at 8 P. M. We may find that twelve hours will suffice in the summer, but our schedule has not yet been established.

In Washington, D. C., in an unheated basement, we have found that by draping an old sheet or cloth over our table during the winter months, a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F. has been maintained during the daytime with the lights on.

Humidity in an unheated basement is higher than in your living quarters, and to supplement humidity, we have placed about one inch of builder's sand in each tray. By watering the plants in the morning from above the plants, using a hand syringe, the excess water falls on the sand and evaporates, making the atmospheric conditions perfect for the plants. If you use tepid water, or water that feels lukewarm to your hand, just water away, and have no fears about crown-rot or leaf-spotting. However, you should only water the plants when the surface of the sand becomes dry. This means about every third day in winter. It may be about each second day in the summer months.

Insect-control spraying with NNOR or OPTOX (these are the only two which we have used, hence the qualification,) may be done directly under the lights without removing the plants. We spray once a month. If the dipping process is used, the plants may be replaced immediately, without fear of leaf-spotting.

Feed mature plants in bloom once a month, using your own preference in plant foods. We have followed the advice of Helen van Pelt Wilson, and have alternated different foods. Fertilizers should be applied directly to the soil, and not allowed to come in contact with the foliage.

Soil compositions vary. We are using the following mixture:

(a) One bushel of rich woods dirt, (screened.)

(b) One gallon bucket of builder's sand.

(c) One gallon bucket of screened peat moss.

(d) One quart measure of bone-meal.

Plants may be grown from seed, or from leaf propagation with excellent results under fluorescent lights.

An interesting comparison between plants grown in a green-house, and plants grown under fluorescent lights, could be obtained by using color photography. However, this is impractical, so here in summary are what may be considered as definite advantages:

(a) Plants are very much easier to care for when watering, feeding, and spraying.

(b) Plants are never leggy, and suffer no ill-effects when transferred from under the lights.

(c) Plant growth tends towards flatness, and the blooms are carried well above the plant.

(d) Foliage is rich and glossy, and leaves are short-stemmed.

(e) Blooming is prolific, with the flowers of deeper color.

(f) Growth is vigorous and compact, and plants set buds much earlier.

We are not fortune-tellers, but we honestly believe that several years hence, the green-house cultivation of African violets will be a thing of the past. Fluorescent lighting is the coming thing. So, take our advice, hop aboard the fluorescent bandwagon, have fun, and get in on the ground floor, or should we say basement.

REGISTRATION REPORT . . . .

Neil C. Miller

PART I

The following applications for Registration have been received during the period January 1, 1952 to March 10, 1952. No objections to registration are apparent.

PLANT AND REGISTRANT

Juno 1-1-52
Miss Edith B Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Gorgeous x Red Head. Rapid growing with lush foliage, flat, up to 15" in diameter. Bright green leaf with white veins, leaves large in proportion to length of petioles. Normal blossoms VR6 with two upper petals VR2, but some are clear VR6 and appear on same stalk with bi-colored blossoms.

Maple Girl 1-5-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Pink Girl x Blue Eyes. Large plant, flat, up to 15" diameter. Leaf is "girl" type, very dark; center leaves frequently irregular; and leaf has general appearance of a maple leaf. Blossom color BV6 with eye of BV4.

Oakleaf Girl 1-15-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
*Seedling: Flat grower. Leaf is very dark, spooned, with finely serrated edges. Blossoms are BV5 with dark edge, slightly fluted.

Mutineer 1-18-52
Mrs. N. H. Sullivan
West Adams Road
Macomb, Ill.
"So called because it grew from a leaf taken from Sailor Girl but came with a very dark green shiny leaf of the form of Oriental Girl leaf. The blossoms are a bit larger than the average and a blue purple shade with a splash of red covering the upper half of the two upper petals and a splash on the outer tips of the three lower petals. It is a vigorous grower and profuse bloomer.

High Hat 1-19-52
Mrs. Carl Dick
2509 South Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio
"Seedling from Blue Boy and Blue Girl. Open, single crown, upright plant. Center of blossoms extra dark blue, outer part of petal a shade lighter blue, dark orange stamens. The name "High Hat" comes from the eight main veins on top of leaf, extending to the serrated edge. They are ridged and veined upward, glossy light green. These ridged upward veins sparkle with a gloss; very showy in between velvet, hairy quilting. Small veins in quilting are black-green. Small red dot in leaf stem."

Tip-Wood Pink 1-22-52
Mrs. John Q. Rumbaugh
R. R. No. 4
Tipton, Indiana
"Well shaped plant with red petioles about two and one-half inches in length. Leaves are almost round with lightly serrated edges, medium green. Not a Supreme, but of heavier texture than Pink Beauty. Bloom about the size of a silver dollar, deepest pink, cupped and slightly fringed, held erect on sturdy three and one half inch stems. Two and three blooms to the stalk."

Tip-Wood Blue 1-22-52
Mrs. John Q. Rumbaugh
R. R. No. 4
Tipton, Indiana
"A duplicate of the above described "Tip-Wood Pink" with the exception that the bloom is of the darkest blue, and has three and four blooms to the stalk."

Heavenly Blue Eyes 1-25-52
Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar
1223 East Oak Park
Des Moines 16, Iowa
*A variant of Sky Blue, a large upright plant. Leaves are light green with red-violet shading, with a bronze over-lay. Blossoms are a very pale blue, lighter than anything on the Fischer chart.

Holly 1-25-52
Mrs. Ferne V. Kellar
1223 East Oak Park
Des Moines 16, Iowa
*A variant of Ruffles; a large, upright plant. Leaves very dark red violet underneath. Blossom color VB4. Free bloomer, blossoms slightly crinkled.

Marvin's Silver Girl 1-26-52
Mrs. Floyd D. Marvin
R. D. No. 2
Port Byron, New York
"There is a glossy sheen to each dark green leaf which is marked with a zone of white that extends into the veins. The contrast of these dark green satin sheen leaves with the light blue blossoms is very marked and lovely. The blossoms are nearly the same shade of blue as Sailor Girl. The foliage is heavier and larger."

Bonnie Girl 2-6-52
Miss Maude I Mote
171 Academy Street
Newark, Delaware
*Seedling: Lav. Pink duPont x Blue Girl. Large, upright plant with ruffled cupped leaves dark green on top, light green underneath, deeply serrated. Lavendar blossoms, Deeply cupped.

Renie Roper 2-14-52
Mrs. Leslie S. Heck
403 Valley Street
Lewiston, Penna.
"It is a vigorous grower, a prolific bloomer and the plant is well shaped, as the leaves grow very symmetrical. The flowers stay on until they die and then they must be picked off. The color is perfect, a lovely clear white with a sharp yellow eye. The petals are round. The plant has never suckered and the leaves never curl."

Angelica 2-17-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
"Seedling: Blue Eyes x Pink Beauty. A large, flat, droopy plant. Leaves are large, deep green, and have large serrations. Blossom color V4 with V3 eye. Adult plant has as many as 16 blossoms per cluster, always in bloom."

Rose Perfection 2-17-52
Miss Edith B. Hendrix
9927 E. Howland Drive
Temple City, California
"Seedling: Perfection x Red Girl. A small plant growing in a tight rosette, seldom exceeding 6" in diameter. Leaf is dark green, cupped, and shaped like a calla lily. Blossom is good red, cupped, all petals rounded, held on stem 4" above foliage. Similar to Perfection but with darker blossom and darker foliage."

Cont. on Page 44

NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

CONTINUED FROM MARCH MAGAZINE

Jessie Rawson, Mich.

In contrast to the rapid rate of development of nitrate toxicity potash injury was slow. The plants never seemed able to regain complete turgidity and if injury appeared on the petioles it was confined to a narrow band adjacent to the crown in contrast to nitrate injury which usually discolored one to two inches of the petiole base.

The plants which lived were tested at intervals and nitrates added as needed. Phosphorus held quite constant throughout the test and potash tended to increase as it gradually became available from the soil.

During the winter and early spring the plants developed very slowly and used small amounts of nutrients. They received full sun but there were many cloudy days. The temperature was not too closely controlled and frequently dropped below 60 degrees F. Watering was done with distilled water by filling the saucers used for subirrigation when the soil surface began to dry out.

The pH was checked and was found to average between 6.0 and 6.5. In the extreme nitrate ranges the pH was 7.5 due to the sodium present and when nitrate was blank the pH was 5.5 due to the sulphate anion in K_2SO_4. When both $NaNO_3$ and K_2SO_4 were present in the middle ranges the pH remained between 6.0 and 6.5.

The basis for comparison of different plants and different treatments finally settled upon had four main points:

1. Number of flowers (this was not a season's total but rather a total of three readings taken during late March and April when the plants were in full bloom).
2. Increase in number of leaves ½ inch or more in width (number of living leaves on April 18 minus original number on December 6).
3. Greatest number of peduncles per plant at any one time.
4. General health and vigor of plant (this did not lend itself to tabulation).

Various measurementh such as width and height of plant were tried but were discarded as being impractical. Later, it was noted that the total number of flowers per peduncle correlated rather closely with the nutritional status of the plant especially in regard to its nitrogen supply. This, however, was not noted early enough to use in this study.

As noted on page 14 a tentative and arbitrary optimum was decided upon for each of the three nutrients studied in order that two of them could be stabilized at that point while the third could be varied. This point was 40 ppm. NO_3, 10 ppm. P and 20 ppm. K but this combination definitely did not produce the most satisfactory plants.

This method was not entirely satisfactory, however because it did not give all possible combinations of nutrients. For example, the combined effect of high nitrates and high phosphorus or high potash was not studied directly although there was an indication that nitrates were less injurious when phosphorus was high.

The effect of nutrients in the deficiency through optimum ranges was very slow in appearing and was not pronounced until late March and April. The effect in the toxic ranges has been noted above.

No definite potash deficiency symptoms were observed, perhaps because the soil used contained about 5 ppm. originally and because more became available from the soil as the trials progressed.

Nitrogen deficiency symptoms observed were light colored outer leaves becoming yellow and finally almost white.

Red veination of the leaves especially when observed on the upper leaf surface appeared to be related to available phosphorus in the soil as it never appeared when the test for phosphorus showed 20 ppm. or above and was prevalent in plants testing 10 ppm. or less of phosphorus. A later trial in which 40 ppm. of $NaNO_3$ alone was added to three plants seemed to confirm this. The leaves became deep green and the plants flowered abundantly but red veining was observed.

No correlation could be established between redness on the lower leaf surface and pH although a possible relationship has been reported (26).

An attempt was made to total the increase in number of leaves, the total number of flowers recorded in three observations and the greatest number of peduncles for all three pots in each treatment and relate these totals to nutrients added. In general, this over-emphasized the value of phosphorus and penalized treatments where one or more plants had died. It was true that 100 ppm of phosphorus produced the best series of three plants of any treatment but there was little consistency in the other treatments on this basis. Also, treatments 4 and 5 in which two plants (in the B and C pots) died in each treatment produced very good plants in the A pots. These were severely discriminated against by totalling results from all three pots. The difference in technique as explained on page 15 apparently produced a consistent difference in the

Cont. on Page 58

QUESTION BOX

LAURETTA L. LITTIG 3016 Jefferson Ave. Davenport, Iowa

It seems that the question I receive most is, "What can I do to make my violets bloom?"

Our violets don't need pampering but they do need good care to make them bloom and keep them blooming.

I think one of the most important things is a good, balanced, loose soil mixture. Besides good food, fresh air, humidity, light, and proper watering are necesary. I think it is best to keep the soil always slightly moist instead of letting it get bone-dry and then soaking it. My plants do best if watered a little at the top and a little at the bottom.

The proper size pot is also important. Many make the mistake of using too large a pot for a small plant. I like to start my tiny plants in a two inch pot and then keep shifting to larger pots as the size of the plant requires. I think you can keep your plants blooming indefinitely this way.

QUESTIONS

My plants look healthy for a while then all of a sudden a leaf gets limp looking and starts to turn brown at the tip then withers away. The stem seems firm but the leaf is limp. This also happens to new plants just brought in, in a few days. At first I thought I was watering too much but when I let up, the plants wilted from being too dry. I repotted all my plants in new soil especially for African violets but still have the same trouble. I use the sub-irrigation system of watering. Our water is very hard. The humidity reading is about 20.

Mrs. Ann Sye, Pa.

Has any one successfully crossed a Saintpaulia specie with Achimines? Do the commercial African violet growers think they will be able to develop an African violet with a cone or tuber?

Miss Daisy Jones, Tenn.

Is it harmful to spray and wash your African violets when in bloom?

Stella Lavengood, Ill.

What can I do to get rid of what I believe to be Springtails -- they are tiny white little things that jump when I water the plant.

Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

I am a new member of the African Violet Society and would like to know the meaning of "Soil pH?" Also in raising the violets under lights, what is meant by "light intensity in foot candles?"

Joe Irwin, Ohio

In the June 1951 issue there was an article on "Colchicine in Plant Breeding." I have used it on my violets but as yet haven't noticed any results. I wonder if any one has tried it and their method. I would appreciate hearing from them.

Mrs. C. A. O'Dell, Kans.

I have two pots of African violets with four plants in each pot. They are all in bloom. Could they be taken apart and potted separately while in bloom without loss to either plants or flowers?

Stella Lavengood, Ill.

What makes a healthy looking violet grow on a single root, making it wobbly and what can be done to strengthen it?

What causes brown spots to come on the leaves? As soon as a young leaf comes out these spots can be seen.

Do violet plants do better to separate so there is but one plant in a pot? Sometimes each crown does not have separate roots but has to be broken or cut apart.

Mrs. Walter Blake, Mich.

When rearranging some of my plants, I found my Lady Geneva had lost its white edge to the flower. Upon looking closer, I saw a small sucker at its side, and took it off to start another plant. On cutting it I found the root stock to be ⅜ of an inch across, and hollow inside with tiny insects crawling around in the partly decayed center. By using a magnifying lens, I found grey brown round insects a bit larger than a pin point, also what looked like tiny white worm like growths.

At once I dipped the plant in a solution of 8 drops of Optox to a cup of warm water and left the plant in for fifteen minutes. That has always controlled other insect pests on my plants.

What causes the center leaves to turn grey, and get very brittle deformed stems? I examined the roots which were all right. I cut off the diseased looking center leaves and dipped plant in Optox solution. Then the plant started new growth with many crowns. Do you know of any better way to treat this disease?

Mildred Hoffman, Ill.

I have a Blue Eyed Beauty which has pure white flowers with no trace of blue. Could this be caused from not enough sunshine?

Mrs. J. F. Roche, Jr.

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Could you tell me if the violet called "Doc Hess" is the same as Double Margaret which it looks like?

Also please tell me if Purple Beauty is a double. I bought a small plant and as it grew, it looked just like my Double Neptune.

Mrs. Lelah M. Tanis

Can African violets be treated successfully for "Gas poison?" Can the yellow; tho strong, leaves be successfully treated after receiving a bad case of gas poison? Can these leaves be used for propagation? Epsom salts has not restored the color to these leaves. The crowns are dark but at least three rows of leaves are discolored. Will these leaves cause sports or produce blossomless plants due to gas leakage?

Mrs. May A. Price, Ohio

ANSWERS

Soil pH

To Mrs. Joe Irwin, Ohio

pH stands for "per hydrogen ion concentration." Soil pH 7 is neutral. Less than 7 is acid, and more than 7 is alkaline.

W. K. Hunt, Iowa

Colchicine

To Mrs. C. A. O,Dell, Kans.

I have tried Colchicine tablets, liquid and salve on African violets. So far, my best results have been with tablets. I crush one tablet to a tablespoon of rooting medium.

I have tried soaking leaf cuttings and rooted leaves in the liquid solution for about four hours, then setting them down. If you treat a plant or plantlet only the growing tip should be treated. Don't treat all the leaves or you may kill the plant. Personally I have found the best way is to treat a leaf before it roots but it seems to take forever to get it started. For some reason the loss ratio is very great in many varieties. They like to be kept warm but not in bright light. I usually use a vegetable (plastic) humidifier, preferably colored. The treated plants usually show "Supreme" tendency. I have seen one that showed no leaf change but had a huge flower.

Mrs. M. A. Price, Ohio

Crossing Saintpaulia with Achimenes

To Miss Daisy Jones, Tenn.

I have never heard of a successful cross of Saintpaulia and Achimenes. I have tried to cross a Gloxinia with a Saintpaulia but had no luck. Would like to hear from any one who has had success with either of these crosses.

Yellowed Leaves

To Miss Winifred W. Arrington, N. Y.

Violets need plenty of light but not direct sun or too close to window, which will turn leaves yellow. For nice green leaves put in a north window which I find best for nice foliage. Too heavy feeding could also turn your leaves yellow.

Your curling leaves could be too much water and often too little. Keep soil on top just moist and stir it up once in a while. Keep it loose.

Mrs. Helen L. Burchell, N. Y.

Double Blossom Stem

To Mrs. Theo Lamach, Mont.

Your "Ruffles" is all right. It is characteristic for that plant to have little leaves come with the blooms. Sometimes they come out before the bud so wait to see if it is a blossom stem and not a sucker. Sometimes a "Ruffles" will send out thread runners with a tiny plant at the end like the Strawberry Begonia.

Mrs. Helen L. Burchell, N. Y.

Washing Plants in Bloom

To Stella Lavengood, Ill.

It is not harmful to spray or wash your plants when in bloom. The only thing if you are using an insecticide like N. N. O. R. if you get it on your blossoms it will spot them but will not spoil the buds.

Springtails

To Mrs. Frank Whiting, Mass.

I have tried everything I have ever read about to get rid of Springtails with no success. Recently I used one teaspoon of washing ammonia to a little over a pint of water, thoroughly soaking the soil until it ran out the bottom of the pot. As soon as the soil dried out, I again flushed it with the ammonia solution. In about a week I noticed just a couple Springtails which I think had hatched out after the last soaking. I flushed the soil again and have seen none since. Clorox may do the trick but was afraid to risk so many applications on the roots.

Brown Spots on Leaves

To Mrs. Walter Blake, Mich.

If you are sure no insects are bothering your plants, it is possible you have them too close to the window in the sun. This will cause brown spots, especially if you have dropped water on the foliage.

Separating Plants in Bloom

To Stella Lavengood, Ill.

If the four plants in one pot have separate roots, they can easily be separated and repotted. It may retard the blooming for a while but before long, they will do much better than before.

If the plants are just extra crowns on the main plant, these will have to be cut or broken off close to the main stem, and rooted. It is not necessary to root them in water. Touch the cut parts with Rootone and put them in the soil and you will soon have new plants.

Humidity

To Mrs. Neal J. Bellardo, N. Y.

I don't believe the average home has a higher humidity than 40% or 45%. That's what mine averages and the plants do very well. If you can get it higher so much the better.

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CALLING ALL MEN

E. A. Thompson, Tenn.

The keynote of the 1952 African Violet Society of America Membership Campaign, if there is to be such a campaign, should be "CALLING ALL MEN!"

I discovered a startling fact not long ago. I picked up my 1951-52 Members' Handbook of the African Violet Society and started scanning down the pages of members from different states. Suddenly I noticed how few male members there were. My curiosity was aroused, so I turned back to the beginning and started marking all the male members listed. When I had finished and tallied up the score I was amazed at the results. Out of over 7,000 members listed only 355 were men. Quite a few of those were listed as Mr. and Mrs.

The more I thought about this the less I liked the idea. Surely, in this great land of ours, there were more men interested in growing this most interesting of all house plants . . . Why were so few men members of a Society that gave so much information and interesting facts about African violets for such a small fee? I thought something ought to be done about this situation so I stuck my neck out and wrote our editor on the subject. Mrs. Wright promptly replied and invited me to write an article on the subject. My neck was out, so the only thing left for me to do was write, so here I am!

Mind you now, ladies, I have nothing against you -- You have done a wonderful JOB with the Society and you should continue the good work. I just feel and I know most of you will agree with me, that the male participation should be greater. As a matter of fact, I believe the best approach to enlist more male members is to urge you ladies to recruit the men since you represent the great majority of membership. Show the men (and prospective women members also) what a wealth of information and fellowship they can receive from the African Violet Society and Magazine, at such little cost.

I further suggest that a special department be added to the magazine to arouse the interest of the men. Such a department could be called "From the Male Mail Bag," or any other suitable title to catch the eye and interest of the men, and to be edited by a man. Encourage the men to write in their questions, ideas, suggestions or anything else they have on their minds.

From my experiences in growing flowers, since my childhood, I have found men equally as interested and in some fields more interested in growing flowers than women. I have seen many beautiful collections of African violets owned and cared for by men. One gentleman I was visiting in one of our southern states at one time had a wonderful collection of over 200 plants, with about 150 different varieties. When I asked him if he was a member of the African Violet Society of America he said, "No, that's a woman's club, isn't it?" I assured him it was a Society open to everyone and he was very interested and said he would send in his application for membership the next day. I have heard from him several times since and he is very pleased to be a member of the Society. I wonder how many more men have the same idea about our Society as my friend? Here would be a good chance to tell all prospective male members that our president for 1952 is a man.

I called the president of our local society in December and asked her how many men were members of the Memphis and Shelby County African Violet Society and she told me only one and that he was an honorary member from the Veterans Hospital. She invited me to attend the December meeting. I did so and joined the society, making two male members out of a total of 183. I almost got cold feet and ran when I learned that I was the only man present at the meeting. I had prepared a talk and demonstration on making corsages from freshly fallen blossoms, so I stayed and gave a very nervous presentation. The meeting was so well organized and interesting that I felt at ease in no time. I am looking forward to the next meeting in March and the spring show. I have been asked to be committee chairman of the propagation division for our spring show and I feel honored to have been chosen for this position.

Let's make our society grow. More members this year with the emphasis on "CALLING ALL MEN!"

SUMMIT JEWELRY, INC.

SUMMIT JEWELRY OF AKRON, OHIO, wishes to thank the African Violet Society of America for choosing their design as the official Society pin. The new pin may be ordered from Mrs. Turner, chairman of the National Pin Committee. It is available in Sterling Silver for $3.50, or Gold for $12.50. Made in the shape of an African violet the hard enamel is a beautiful shade of blue.

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FREQUENT Questions

Lyda Sproul, Ill.

An optimistic and trusting editor asked me to write my Saintpaulia experiences.

I did a very unselfish thing when I refused. I was sure if I told the true story, there would be a decided slump in the ambitions of new home-growers. Then came the July issue of the Home Garden and Ralph Bailey's always delightful feature "Bailey's Back Yard," in which he quoted from Thomas Gray's "Ode on the Pleasure Arising from Vicissitude."

I almost changed my mind and wrote the story in order to use that for a title. It would have been grand in big headlines at the top.

But I will still be noble and restrain myself. It was decided instead, to contact some of our ace growers submitting questions most frequently asked.

Letters were received from Fay Wilcox, Florence Foltz, and Mrs. George Pendleton.

Miss Wilcox sends seeds of Saintpaulia all over the world. She wrote her answers to the questions at 3 A. M. Whether she hadn't gone to bed or was just getting up -- this tells the story of her busy life.

Florence Foltz is also a very busy woman with other interests added to her successful violet industry. Florence has come a long way since she rooted her first leaf and wrote her 750 word thesis.

Mrs. Pendleton's plants and blooms are famous. She uses fluorescent lights of the industrial type. Two have 2-48" tubes (white light) and two 3-48". They are about twenty-seven inches from the table and are lighted from 12 to 14 hours a day. She likes the combination of the lights and daylight.

Q. Pots: Do you like clay or plastic?

A. Miss Wilcox likes clay.

Florence Foltz likes plastics. They are cleaner, more colorful and lighter -- this last, an item when using glass shelves. However the soil must be lighter and better drained as the plastic holds the moisture much longer. (You know a violet can drown sitting right in its own pot on a safe window sill.) Mrs. Pendleton uses clay. She is enthusiastic over the new Vermiculite Pottery. They are expensive if one has a lot of plants, but are nice to use for specials.

Q. Do you use a fertilizer or insecticide?

A. Hyponex for food, Optox, N. N. O. R. are widely used but there are many good fertilizers, and insecticides on the market. For black flies an aerosol bomb. Mrs. Pendleton does not feed her plants during the summer months and not more than once a month during winter. In fact she allows her plants to become as near dormant as possible during the summer.

Q. What causes long, leggy stems on blossoms?

A. Not enough light and (or) poor ventilation. Some varieties naturally have longer stems than others.

Q. What can one expect of a seed pod? Anything, or will they be just like one or other of the parent plants?

A. Fay Wilcox: If you pollinate a plant back on itself you may expect it to be like, or very similar to it's parent. But some of the seedlings may decide to resemble their granddaddy.

Q. Does the season make any difference in the time it takes the seeds to mature?

A. Miss Wilcox: Yes. Flowers pollinated in spring or early summer will mature their seeds in less time than if pollinated in fall or winter.

Q. What would be a good cross for a beginner to try?

A. Miss Wilcox: Tinari's Blue Eyes makes a good seed plant -- also Red King, Blue Girl, Mentor Boy. If you are interested in foliage -- Blue Chard, Blue Warrior, Ruffles. Mrs. Foltz crossed Moonglow on Blue Girl. It produced 106 plants with nearly as many kinds of foliage. Her latest cross is Lady Slipper on Blue Snow. Florence says she is not "up" on seasons. She just crosses whenever the notion strikes, and hopes for the best.

Owing to the rather discouraging prelude to all this, I am glad I can end on a brighter note. Things are looking up for me and I am having good luck. I won't enumerate the things I tried. I did a little of everything. One friend wrote she had a big plant that just sat doing the same. She fed her's a dose of black coffee and it bloomed. "That is the wackiest thing I've heard yet," I said, as I picked up the coffee pot and set my course toward the shrinking violet.

It bloomed . . .

I had my tray filled with lime stone chips kept damp, except in extremely wet weather, when the chips are allowed to dry out. My Saintpaulias have had no pests or diseases of any kind since using the lime stone.

And isn't it wonderful that Pleasure can arise from Vicissitude?

CLIMBING AFRICAN VIOLETS

Saintpaulia grotei has brown climbing stem which grows up to two feet the first year, light blue flowers shade to deep violet.

Saintpaulia magungensis has creeping and branching brown stems which hang down around the container, violet blue flowers with darker centers.

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PLANT STAND ENCORE

Kathryn C. Deibel, Ind.

Since writing my first article on raising African violets in the "practical plant stand," we have had many and varied experiences.

When the first story was written, we had used the stand for only a short time, but now it has been more than a year and we have a larger stand that has been in use since last May. We are still very happy with our stands and method of growing African violets, but we have learned much -- and would like to pass along some helpful knowledge to others who may be trying the stands for the first time.

As stated earlier, we use vermiculite in the trays. Why? Because it is so much lighter in weight than sand, and holds moisture longer. We get the cheaper grade of vermiculite for that -- such as is used by the building trade.

We have found the best time to water the trays is in the early morning. It takes almost 24 hours for a 3 inch pot to absorb the water so that the top soil is damp. Last winter I was ill and my husband had to water at night. The temperature dropped in the house at night (especially last winter when it went to 19 degrees below zero here) -- and we lost a number of plants from crown rot, caused by the watering immediately followed by cooler temperature. That taught us to water only in the morning when the temperature was on the rise.

I experimented until I found that it took approximately one gallon of water for each tray 48" x 14" x 2" -- with three-inch pots. These were watered twice a week during the time there was heat in the house. If more water was used the pots became too wet. This summer, after the heat was turned off and the house opened I had to experiment again as to the amount of water to use and how often. I only water once in two weeks as we have had so much rain and so much humidity. If I do see a pot between times that appears dry on top, I pour a small amount of water on the top soil for I know it is still moist below.

I wait until the vermiculite in the trays is barely damp -- then I water. Was so afraid of getting rot and mold on my plants that I have been very careful. As yet, I have not had one plant go down with either! The plants thrive and bloom almost constantly. If they do slow down, which they do occasionally, they come right back. Sometimes when the temperature goes high they drop their blooms rather quickly but keep right on blooming.

Another thing we have found out is that one can place a stubborn plant in the trays -- one which has had everything done for it and still refuses to bloom, and in a few weeks, it will be blooming! I had a Saffron Red Boy that absolutely refused to bloom. It was in a four inch pot and I did not want to put it in my trays as large pots take up so much room, but I did finally, as a last resort before it was thrown out. It was placed in the trays and in a short while it was loaded in buds and has been blooming ever since. I guess it knew what it wanted!

The first of June we filled our new stand with small potted plants in 2 inch pots. In a few weeks they were heavily budded and growing like mad. Nearly all have now been shifted to three inch pots and are going strong and blooming heavily here in August. We found these small plants had to be watered differently than the others so I only use three quarts of water to a 50 x 18" tray and water every two weeks. The little pots absorbed so much faster they became too wet if more water was used.

There is one feature about the lights that isn't so nice. It seems to cause the plants to have a tendency to reach out of the pot and they have to be watched or they become wobbly. They grow so fast is the reason, I think.

Another thing, the lights make the blues and pinks much deeper and it makes the reds more on the blue side. At least I have found it so. My reds are redder out of the trays but I leave them in the trays because they grow so beautifully.

Our lights are 40-watt daylight fluorescent bulbs and are on approximately 16 hours a day.

Also -- we have found for best results that the lights should be about eleven inches from the top of the plant.

We are still very happy with our method of raising African violets in our plant stands and hope we have encouraged others to try this method of growing our FAVORITE of all house plants.

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MR. EDENS WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY IN RESPONSE TO AN INQUIRY FROM HER

Dear Mrs. S.—:

It is a pleasure to answer your recent letter regarding the use of 15% Wettable Parathion, sometimes sold under the trade name Planthion, as a dip in the control of Cyclamen mites, mealybugs or other insects on African violets.

First, Parathion is a most effective insecticide for the control of Cyclamen mites, mealybugs and other persistent insect pests that attack African violets. While highly toxic, Parathion may be used with safety if reasonable precautions are strictly observed. Thoughtless handling of it either in liquid form or the powder itself may cause serious illness. Remember that Parathion as a liquid should not come in contact with the skin -- if it does wash it off immediately -- and the powder or fumes from it must not be inhaled.

When mixing the powder with water in making a solution for dipping as well as in the dipping operations, rubber gloves must always be used. Both the mixing of the solution and the work of dipping should always be done outdoors.

The formula I follow in mixing a solution to be used as a dip is as follows: Dissolve one ounce (avoirdupois) and two teaspoons of the washing powder Dreft or Vel in four gallons of warm water. A medium size, rather deep galvanized or aluminum tub seems to be best to use in mixing the solution and in performing the dipping operations.

The pots containing the plants are inverted, with the first two fingers of each hand holding the plant and soil firmly in the pot, and then dip carefully in the solution. Submerge the entire plant, but not necessarily the entire pot, and no harm will come if the soil in the pot is soaked with the solution. Careless handling of plants in the operation of dipping may break the foliage. To help avoid doing this, dip the plants in the solution using a sort of semi-circular motion. Practice the motion in the air a few times before dipping. This will help. Try it.

Permit the plants that are dipped to dry in a shady place; do not attempt to dry them by other means.

As a rule one dipping will clear up any infestation of Cyclamen mites or mealybugs. But as an absolute safeguard dipping twice at one month intervals will provide complete control. Do not save the solution because it is usually quite messy after being used. Make up a fresh solution for each dipping.

The foregoing operations are simple and easy to perform. Early last fall I dipped about twelve hundred plants, working leisurely, in approximately four hours.

We like to recommend our advertisers who handle insecticides. So, in case you experience any difficulty in purchasing Parathion we suggest that you communicate with Mr. Neil C. Miller, Layton's Lake, Penns Grove, New Jersey. If Mr. Miller does not have Parathion in stock, I believe he will secure it and prepare it in one ounce lots for you to use immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Boyce M. Edens

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45 Randolph St.
Battle Creek, Mich.

A WORD OF WARNING

Ada Magill, Ill.

As I re-read the article by Helen Pochurek, page 43 December 1951 magazine, "ALLERGIC" struck me so forcefully I feel impelled to pass on my sentiments about having tests made for it.

Our favorite little African violet is guilty of causing an ALLERGY among us. . .

My good friend Mary Fowkes, of Chicago (those of you who attended the convention will remember meeting Mary as our chairman) is a victim of such an ailment. For several months before any tests were made she suffered all the symptoms of hay fever. Eliminating most every possible cause for it the Doctor suggested making the allergy test with her African violets, using the secretion from a leaf. Needless to say the reaction was positive.

This meant something had to be done about the removal of her plants. Like you and I Mary felt she just could not give them up entirely. The solution was immediate installation of fluorescent lights in the Fowkes basement. The African violets then made their sojourn to regions below. In less than a week Mary's head symptoms began to clear. However, when a day is spent transplanting or repotting plants she must pay the penalty for a day or two at a time.

Now this is my POINT -- Almost without exception commercially grown plants are treated with sodium selenate or dipped and sprayed with parathion. We are told that sodium selenate is effective in soil for from three to five years. That being true surely plant life as succulent as the African violet will harbor such an insecticide most of its life. Therefore, without intent to alarm anyone, I do believe extreme care should be exercised about the use of any part of a plant for sink tests be it an African violet or any other plant. Should it ever be necessary for you to have an allergy test made KNOW the plant to be used, KNOW whether it has been treated with parathion or sodium selenate or any other poison insecticide or you may have something worse than an ALLERGY!

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Causes wondrous plant mutations.

A simple scientific chemical means of creating new forms in flowers - all plants. Easy to use. Complete kit with instruction booklet.

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NAUGHTY MARIETTA - pink miniature, girl foliage, limited quantity.

DUPONT APPLE BLOSSOM - Dupont leaf, large blossoms white with orchid eye. LOOKS like an apple blossom.

MANY OTHER INTERESTING VARIETIES

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Hand carved in lucite. Flower violet color.

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1602 Pioneer Road **Des Moines, Iowa**

REGISTRATION

Cont. from Page 33

Charm 2-20-52
Mrs. Walter Lattin
201 North Almansor Street
Alhambra, California

"Sport, unknown origin; loose rosette, leaves form a large circle, about 18 inches in mature plant. Six-tiers of leaves overlapping each other, graduate on stems from 1 to 5 inches from center of plant. Small plants have light-green quilted leaves. Mature plants leaves are dark green quilted with light green center from stem to center of leaf cupped downward, red under-neath. Leaf measures from 3½ to 4½ inches in length and 2½ inches wide. Cluster of flowers on mature plant average 25 to 30. Size 1 to 1½ inches. Color Orchid, upper two petals dark, three lower light with a line of deep orchid in center of each petal. Flowers on 4 to 5 inch stems just above foliage, profuse bloomer."
* See Part IV

PART II

COMMITTEE PROTESTS

In the December 1951 Report the following plants were published under Committee Protest because it was impossible to tell from the information furnished whether they had been sufficiently propagated:

Dream Girl Supreme	Orchid Wing*
Fuchsia Plaid	Red Rave*
Purple Girl	Paradise*
Oros Candida*	Eclipse
Oros Crimson*	Pennsylvania Lavendar
Red Wing*	Rose Ellevia

Reports have now been received from all the registrants. All plants except Paradise had been sufficiently propagated. The Committee Protest is thus lifted, but because of the uncertainty, the protest period will be extended to September 1st, 1952, instead of June 1st, 1952 as it would otherwise be.

Notation concerning plants marked with * was also made in the March 1952 Report.

African Violet Handbook for Judges and Exhibitors.

Complete information for judges and holding shows, scale of points, as well as valuable information for everyone entering plants in a show.
75c Each mailing included.

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FOUNTAIN CITY, TENN.

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THE VIOLET HOUSE
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Featuring leaf shipping service from the very newest varieties many that were introduced at the NATIONAL AFRICAN SHOW at CHICAGO, April 1952.

NEW PRICE LIST MAY FIRST

PART III

NAME RESERVATIONS

The following name reservations have been made during this period.

Angel Face	**Persian Butterfly
African Queen	**Persian King
Blue Goddess	**Persian Mary Ann
Blue Morning Glory	**Persian Pink Baby
Blue Mist	**Persian Queen
Cascade	**Persian Skipper
Charity	**Persian Sunset
Charm	**Persian Tony Boy
Dwarf Ionantha	Pilgrim Girl
Faith	Pink Dawn
Gorgeous Bi-Color Supreme	Rosy Morn
Hooded Lady	Sarah Anne
Maid of Honor	Sheila Kay
*Mary-Way	Sir Roger
Mistress Mary	*Temple
Mont Blanc	Temple Beau
Mutineer	Temple Belle
My Jesse	Tip-Wood Blue
**Persian Bi-Color	Tip-Wood Pink
**Persian Bouquet	Trinket
**Persian Boy	Velvet Ruffles

*Series Reservation

**This Reservation has been only tentatively granted. The question as to whether the name "PERSIAN" (a designation which has been applied to various plants for many years) should be reserved for one individual is on the agenda for Board consideration at the Chicago Convention.

Note that some of these Name Reservations are also covered by Registration Applications received later from the person making the Reservations.

PART IV

PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Despite the plainly worded notice in the December 1951 Report that each application for Registration must be accompanied by a written description which would be published 8 of the 15 Registration Applications were not accompanied by a description; and, despite notice given by the Chairman that he would not compose any descriptions in the future he did compose all those marked with an asterisk in part I of this Report. Again, the "description intent" of the applicant was sought, but it was not realized, the Chairman can assume no responsibility therefore. The responsibility for furnishing a publishable description rests upon the applicant.

PART V

REGISTRATIONS BECOME PERMANENT

No objections have been filed on any plants published in Part I of the June 1951 Registration Report, so these plants now become permanently registered.

SOILS FOR AFRICAN VIOLETS

Cont. from Page 12

same soil if desired. Complete commercial fertilizers often appear in formulas. Vigoro for example, with a formula of 6:10:4, can be used in the proportion of about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. The writer has used a 0:14:10 commercial fertilizer with good results. Either of the last two fertilizers can be used a tablespoonful to three cups of soil. Wood ashes are also sometimes used as a source of potash, not so much now as in the past, perhaps because wood ashes are getting difficult to obtain. Wood ashes are rather tricky, the strength is liable to vary, and you have to know your particular wood ashes to be safe. Too much is liable to burn the plants. For a starter, try not over two tablespoons to three cups of soil, start cautiously and work up. (The writer speaks from sad experience). Commercial sheep manure is fairly popular as a modifier, the average dosage appearing to be about a tablespoon to three cups of soil. This by no means exhausts the list of fertilizer modifiers, but is perhaps enough to give the general picture.

The writer has encountered only two medicinal modifiers, although it is highly probable that others are in use somewhere in the country. These two are tobacco dust and Fermate. Tobacco dust is used in the proportions of about a tablespoon to six cups of soil as an insecticide. An average application of Fermate seems to be about a tablespoonful to five cups of soil. Fermate is primarily a fungicide, and its use seems to indicate a desire to control the fungus growth in the soil. Both of these modifiers are rather rare and are not at all in general use.

The appended tabulation gives a list of fifteen actual African violet soils in successful use by growers over the country. These recipes have been selected and arranged to illustrate the general principles of soil building. It is perhaps fairer to say that the formulas in the table are based upon the successful recipes. As received, they came in with all sorts of measurements, and in the interest of uniformity and comparison, all measurements have been reduced to cups and level tablespoons, with the relationship that sixteen tablespoons are equal to one cup. In making this reduction, considerable violence has in some cases been done to the original proportions, for which apologies are due to the contributors. My excuse is that the measurements do not have to be extremely accurate any way. Some of the measurements used were rather funny. I called a bushel 74½ cups; a three inch pot 1½ cups; a four inch pot 2½ cups; a five inch Azalea pot 4½ cups; a shovelful 12 cups; and a single handful ¾ cup.

The first recipe is my own. It was developed in a reaction against previous formulas which had gradually become more and more complicated without any corresponding apparent improvement in performance. It is the naked "Three Thirds" formula. It is apparent that I belong to the school

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Well rooted, undivided cuttings, ready for potting. Certified Stock: White Girl, White Beauty, White Wonder, Blue Eyed Beauty, Snow Prince, Rose Marie, Blue Heiress, Gorgeous Blue Wonder, Red Velvet, Garnet King, Snow Girl, Innocence, Dble. Sailors Delight, Dble. Orchid Girl, Dble. Sea Girl, Snow White, Dble Purity, Dble. Rose, Dark Beauty, Azure Beauty: — 10 for $7.50 POSTPAID, SPECIAL DELIVERY.

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who introduce their fertilizers with the water, and it is also obvious that when I made up this formula I was "fed up" on modifiers. The second formula, Mr. Edens', is the "Two Fifths" recipe. Mr. Edens obtains an excellent soil by the high quality of each of his ingredients; his leaf mold, for example, is rotted for three years before use, and nothing is added or taken away from the dry leaves as they are raked up and piled. In the third recipe, Mrs. Genntison splits the difference between Mr. Edens and me, as far as percentage of sand is concerned, using one fourth instead of Mr. Edens' one fifth or my one third. She also unbalances the proportions of soil and humus and introduces a very logical modifier. Mr. Hull's formula, the fourth in the list, is very similar to Mrs. Genntison's, Mr. Hull dividing his soil portion into two ingredients. Mr. Hull also introduces the principal of "layering", making the soil in the bottom of the pot a different composition from that at the top. In his case, the fertilizers are put in the bottom probably with the double idea of inducing the roots to grow down into the pot, and of surrounding the roots of small plants when first transplanted with a bland soil until the inevitable root bruises heal over. This same scheme of layering is sometimes used for other purposes, for example, to put a more moisture retaining mixture at the bottom of the pot, to keep the soil moist longer, feeding the moisture upward from the bottom toward the top. In recipe No. 5, Mrs. Conant uses a "Two Fifths" soil modification, very much unbalancing the soil -- humus proportions in favor of the humus. Kapost is a humus packaged and sold commercially and is reputed to be made from "cotton wastes." Quite possibly it is similar to decayed cotton mote, discussed under Mr. Starr's formula, No. 15.

Then we come to the very interesting single ingredient formulas. Mrs. Courtney (No. 6) used practically pure woods dirt, gathered under live oak trees. She reports that it looks to be about a third sand. She spoils my story a bit (but not the soil) by introducing a little commercial sheep manure as a modifier. However, Mrs. C. A. Rochedieu, of Nashville, Tenn., whose formula is not listed because it is so simple, uses wood dirt pure and undefiled. The only special requirement is that it must always be gathered from the same hill near Nashville. Then Mrs. Gresham (No. 7) uses a formula that is ninety percent wood dirt. The other ingredients -- peat moss and cow manure -- are so reduced in quantity that they appear like modifiers. It is quite apparent that wood dirt is a mixture of varying proportions of soil, humus and sand, and that quite often a wood dirt is found in which the ingredients are so mixed naturally so that it can be used as an African violet soil unchanged.

But after we explain the wood dirt single ingredient formulas, we run into the well rotted cow manure formulas, like Mrs. Haffenden's No. 8. She uses practically eighty percent cow manure, ten percent soil and ten percent sand. The latter ingredients are used to improve the tex-

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ture. These cow manure formulas are fairly common, at least Mrs. Haffenden's recipe can not be considered as an extra-ordinary exception. The one characteristic that all the users of the cow manure formulas emphasize is that the cow manure is extremely well rotted -- much more so than that ordinarily used. It appears that cow manure, when extremely well rotted produces a humus which has better porosity and moisture absorbing tendencies than most other humuses, and that only slight modifications in these respects are required to make it suitable as a violet soil.

Mrs. Hodan's soil (No. 9) has no sand or sand substitute appearing in the recipe. It would seem that her garden soil is probably rather sandy, and her formula is included to show that the composition of the other ingredients affects the amount of sand required. Mrs. Bee's (No. 10) recipe shows the successful use of vermiculite as a replacement for sand.

The next two formulas, Mrs. Liddell's (No. 11) and Mrs. Rhodes' (No. 12) illustrate the famous wood sawdust formulas. It is the writer's belief that this is a Georgia specialty, at least, he has never encountered this humus anywhere else. The trick to wood sawdust is that it must be well rotted, and to rot sawdust takes a lot of time. Ten to twelve years is the minimum that can be tolerated, and even this must be under favorable exposure conditions. Mrs. Rhodes owns a sawdust pile that is over twenty-five years old, and she considers this to be fairly well rotted. Incompletely rotted sawdust acts more like a sand than like a humus somewhat similar to vermiculite. Mrs. Liddell's formula also exhibits a modification of wood ashes used as a fertilizing modifier. She uses ashes produced by burning leaves in the fall. Mrs. Rhodes shows an expedient of value when the modifiers get numerous. All of the modifiers are mixed together in the proper proportions to form a shot gun modifier, which can then be added in one operation to the soil. Mrs. Rhodes uses tobacco dust as a medicinal modifier. Mrs. Westbrook (No. 13) employs Fermate as a medicinal modifier.

The final two recipes employ special humuses. Mrs. Pochurek (No. 14) uses decayed corn ensilage. She found a silo which had not been used for a while in which there still remained a small quantity of ensilage that had decayed. This material proved very valuable as a humus, and Mrs. Pochurek is very enthusiastic about it. She only regrets the small quantity of this material which is available to her. Mr. Starr (No. 15) uses well rotted cotton mote as a humus. Cotton mote is a cotton waste, the last material removed from the cotton fibre to clean it. A large proportion of it is embryonic cotton seeds which have not developed (from which it gets its name) and there is also a fair proportion of bits of cotton seed hulls and extremely short cotton fibre. It is sold by the truckload to spread on lawns as a fertilizer. Placed in a pile, it heats like manure, and quite rapidly decomposes into a very fine humus. Mr. Starr also exhibits the use of all three of the "sand" substances, sand, vermiculite and cinders, in one formula.

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AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWICKS

4" wicks, 7/32" -A .08c, 7/32" -B .10c, 1/4" .12c, 3/8" .15c each. 7/32" wicks for 4" pots. Write for bulk prices.

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SMALL SIZE	$1.00
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It is quite apparent that an article of this kind is a compilation, and the nominal author only serves as a transcriber and coordinator. This article has really been written by the members of Homing Pigeon Unit Number 6, Mrs. Joseph Hodan, director, who supplied recipes, and the growers of the Atlanta area, who supplied recipes and soil samples.

SOIL RECIPES

(1) H. G. Harvey, Dunwoody, Ga.
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
1 cup sand

(2) Boyce M. Edens, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups leaf mold (well rotted)
2 cups garden soil
1 cup sand

(3) Mrs. Phillip Genntison, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups woods dirt
1 cup peat moss
1 cup sand
1½ tablespoons commercial sheep manure

(4) Frank Hull, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
1 cup garden loam
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup compost
1 cup sand

In the bottom of a 3" pot put broken crockery, ½ teaspoon charcoal, a little soil; then ½ teaspoonful bone meal and a little more soil. Mix these ingredients, then fill the rest of the pot with soil.

(5) Mrs. Leslie A. Conant, Bay Village, Ohio
2 cups compost
2 cups Kapost
1 cup sand

(6) Mrs. Erla Courtney, Fairhope, Ala.
3 cups woods dirt
1 tablespoon commercial sheep manure

(7) Mrs. Roy Gresham, Atlanta, Ga.
5½ cups wood dirt
5 tablespoons peat moss
3 tablespoons cow manure (well rotted)
2 tablespoonsful superphosphate

(8) Mrs. F. E. Haffenden, Battle Creek, Mich.
5 cups cow manure (well rotted)
½ cup garden soil
½ cup sand

(9) Mrs. Joseph E. Hodan, Cleveland Heights, Ohio
1 cup leaf mold
2 cups garden soil
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
2 tablespoons superphosphate
2 tablespoons ground limestone
Put charcoal in the bottom of the pot

(10) Mrs. T. C. Bee, Newnan, Ga.
1 cup garden soil
1 cup woods dirt
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
1 cup vermiculite
1 tablespoon bone meal
1 tablespoon commercial fertilizer

(11) Mrs. Todd Liddell, Atlanta, Ga.
2 cups wood dirt

1 cup sawdust (well rotted)
½ cup sand
½ cup chicken charcoal
½ cup hard wood leaf ashes
1 tablespoon superphosphate

(12) Mrs. G. E. Rhodes, Atlanta, Ga.
1 cup wood dirt
1 cup garden soil
1 cup sawdust (well rotted)
¾ cup chicken charcoal
1½ tablespoons special fertilizer
The special fertilizer is made up as follows:
7 tablespoons superphosphate
7 tablespoons bone meal
4 tablespoons tobacco dust
2 tablespoons cotton seed meal
1 tablespoon Esminel
1 tablespoon ground limestone

(13) Mrs. Sue Westbrook, Atlanta, Ga.
6 cups wood dirt
1½ cups peat moss
1 cup sand
1 cup chicken charcoal
6 tablespoons bone meal
3 tablespoons superphosphate
3 tablespoons commercial sheep manure
1½ tablespoons Fermate

(14) Mrs. Frank Pochurek, Cleveland, Ohio
9 cups garden soil
3 cups cow manure (well rotted)
3 cups corn ensilage (well rotted)
Sterilize with chemical sterilizer, screen through a coarse screen. Then add:
3 cups sand
1 cup peat moss
1 cup Perlite
3½ tablespoons Activo
2 tablespoons fish emulsion

(15) V. S. Starr, Atlanta, Ga.
5 cups leaf mold (well rotted)
1 cup garden soil
1 cup peat moss
1 cup cotton mote (well rotted)
1 cup vermiculite
1 cup cinders (screened through ⅜" mesh)
1 cup sand
1 cup cow manure (well rotted)
½ cup charcoal
¼ cup bone meal

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WIK-FED FLOWER POTS

The new, scientific, sub-irrigating flower pot. Ideal for African Violets and other house plants. Feeds moisture and plant food in solution directly to roots through Fiber-Glass Wick.
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Tiny insects make leaves curl, plants shrivel and blooms stop. Quick-acting Marvel Spray gives the protection every plant needs.

Don't wait for drooping, curling or dropping leaves, or small white cotton masses, to warn you that your Saintpaulias are insect infested!

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YELLOW BROWN GIRL

I am little YELLOW BROWN GIRL who has created so much comment from my African violet collectors. I came into the African violet world about five years ago. I was not glamorous enough to receive any attention, not even a name, just a number -- 34. As I grew older, there were many people who saw me and wanted to take me home, however I just went into several seasons of reproduction only to be discarded when I did not improve. My keeper thought it would be better to hold me for a while longer, using me for hybridizing, and when he finally discovered that I could produce something with a tint yellow, he thought it would be to the advantage of my family to give everybody that was interested a chance to reproduce me.

It was called to his attention that the most popular plants at the African Violet Convention at Dayton last year was the "freak" and out of the ordinary relatives, even some that did not exactly reproduce themselves true to form. I have always run true to form, in spite of the fact that I have been called white, dirty white, and "so called Yellow." I was described exactly as I am and checking my color with the Official Color Chart put out by Maer's & Paul, used by patent office for establishing colors, I will still be a Pyrite Yellow, which is official.

This African violet was a seedling of Mr. R. G. Baxter that Mary Meads discovered at the time she was working for him. It was through her interest in this variety that it was kept in repeated production which she still considers, with all the comments pro and con, a worthy contribution to the African violet future. . .

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Cont. from Page 13

These bacteria exist in colonies made up of millions of individuals, whereas the fungus mat may have all grown from a single reproductive cell and is a single individual plant.

The bacteria are an amazing group of plants. Their survival and persistence depends on the power to live and multiply under a number of adverse conditions. They can double their number every twenty minutes, or cease growth and go into what seems to be a state of suspended animation, in this state surviving cold so intense as to liquify gases, extreme drought prolonged for many years, and heat so intense as to coagulate blood, high pressure and high vacua.

These are the creatures with which man has to contend. The plant parasitic bacteria are mostly rod-shaped, motile, and gain entrance through a wound or a natural opening. They are specific in that only one particular kind of bacterium causes one particular kind of disease.

Most plant diseases are caused by fungi, one group causing smuts, another group rusts, another mildews. Smuts are the black powdery masses of spores (one-celled) (reproductive structures) you get when you break an ear of corn attacked by the smut fungus. Rusts are found on stems and leaves of grains such as wheat. Mildews grow on jellies and bacteria can't attack because of the presence of too much sugar, and will also grow on old shoes, books and clothing. Molds, which is a general term for a great number of those fungi, are also beneficial to man. A mold called penicillium notatum makes the antibiotic penicillin. Penicillium roquefortii makes roquefort cheese, Penicillium camembertii makes camembert cheese, another mold makes citric acid which replaced the whole citrus fruit growing industry of Italy before the last war.

The Germans having no source of oil, found a fungus that, when fed sugar, changed it into oil, thus giving them a supply. These molds are made up of filaments large enough to be seen with the naked eye.

Fungi enter a flowering plant through a break in the epidermis or by digesting a way through, once inside they ramify throughout the plant or are confined to a particular part and here absorb nutrient from the plant cells, thus weakening or destroying it.

Fungi reproduce in various ways. The common non-sexual way is by the terminal cells at ends of the filaments to round up and break off; each with the power of producing a new mold.

Viruses also cause plant diseases. These agents are extremely small. Tobacco mosaic virus, which causes a disease of tobacco in which spots appear on the leaf, occurs as needle-shaped crystals. The size of these crystals are 1/2,000,000 of an inch by 1/200,000 of an inch. The true nature and structure of viruses are in general unknown. Whether viruses are living entities or not is also unknown. Obviously if they are crystals they are non-living. Some, however, seem to be living bodies, others crystals, still others protein molecules. We must redefine our conception of life if we are to include them.

Viruses can exist only in living organisms. Here they reproduce, which is a function of living matter only. They are carried from one plant to another by insects or other animals, man included.

Nematodes differ especially from bacteria, fungi and viruses in that that they are animals. They vary greatly in size but the smaller ones may be 1/50 of an inch in diameter up to 1/10 of an inch long. Large numbers of them are free-living, while others closely related are parasitic in plants and insects. Nematodes are worms. Some occuring in animals attain a length of several feet. We are familiar with the nematode that causes trichinosis in man when he eats uncooked pork that contains the cysts of the worm, also with the nematode causing hookworm in man.

Some nematodes attack leaves and stems of plants, others the roots. Some can live only on living plants and are called obligate parasites, others can exist on plants living or dead and are called semi-parasites, still others can get their nutrients only from dead plants and are called saprophytes.

In some cases it may be necessary for nematodes to wound the surface of the plant before bacteria and fungi can gain entrance.

Hoping this is interesting enough, and that the African Violet Society will be benefited by this investigation.

Most sincerely,

Austin Ford

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(By action of the Board of Directors, new members joining the Homing Pigeon after July 31, 1949, must be members of the National Society.)

HOMING PIGEON

Dear Members:

I would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to write me your hints, even though you may not be members of a Pigeon unit. It is impossible to thank you all personally, so will thank you through my column. Many of the hints I have received have been used in earlier columns, so of course cannot be used again.

Before this magazine reaches you, another wonderful convention will be just a memory. At the moment, however, I am looking forward to renewing the many old friendships and meeting the many new members. Isn't it going to be fun . . . or I should say, "wasn't it fun?"

Your Hint Editor,
Helen Pochurek

Leaves coming through the mail often need freshening up after their journey. Put a damp towel in the bottom of a casserole or roaster. Place leaves on the towel and cover casserole tightly. Set in a warm place overnight. By morning, they will be fresh and crisp. I never lose a leaf, no matter how far they are shipped.
Mrs. Sue Smith, Wellington, Kansas.

Special Pin Money Unit 1.
The violets I have in fancy pots and dishes without drainage, do best when planted in Black Magic.
Mrs. Sue Smith, Wellington, Kansas.

HELEN POCHUREK
14225 McCracken Rd.,
Cleveland, Ohio

Homing Pigeon

News Editor

I use a pointed medicine dropper to water tiny seedlings. It is also most useful for picking up that drop of water that often lands in the center of the crown by mistake.
Mrs. J. E. Cochran, Neodesha, Kansas.

One teaspoon of Phosphoric Acid in 5 gallons of water helps plants to bloom.
Ethel Thalheimer, Long Beach, Cal., Unit 85.

A window sprayer makes a fine sprayer for African violets. It is less messy than other types and can be handled with one hand.
Helen MacMahon, Macedonia, Ohio.

Try plastic bread boxes, designed to hold a loaf of bread as a miniature greenhouse. They hold a number of small pots and are fine to use after transplanting small plants.
Jean Kopac, Maple Heights, Ohio.

Plastic refrigerator egg boxes are fine for starting leaves. Each egg compartment takes a leaf, set in a mixture of peat and vermiculite. A few holes made in the top helps ventilation. Leaves will root very quickly.
Mrs, Floyd Lewis, Pownal, Vermont.

I use a 'Stoppette' container (a deodorant) to hold Fermate. The top can be pried off the empty container very easily, which I then fill with Fermate. A slight pressure puts the Fermate just where I want it. I like it better than any thing else I have used for the purpose.
Dorothy Grey, Detroit, Mich.

Don't discard seedlings until after they have bloomed at least twice. Very often, the second or third blooming will be far superior to the first blooms.
Your Hint Editor

To keep plants watered during a few days absence, place plants on pieces of fire brick set in pans. Water to the top of brick and plants will be kept moist, yet not set in water.
Jane Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio.

Homing Pigon
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IF YOU WISH TO JOIN A GROUP, OR IF YOU WISH TO WITHDRAW FROM ONE, PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH IVA G. WOODS.

AFRICAN VIOLET MOST FLORIFEROUS

Cont. from Page 19

room! Maybe bathrooms do need some color and inspiration.

A younger brother of one of the violet collectors said, "When I find African violet leaves in my salad, I'll move away from home."

Another violet fancier wondered why her bed felt scratchy. She found some vermiculite in the sheets. She had forgotten to wash her hands before she went to bed. This all proves that many home gardeners are vitally interested in making their African violets grow and produce blooms.

Recently we offered free culture pamphlets on KTTV Garden Chats 2 p. m. program. We were swamped with requests for that pamphlet.

African violets are not hard to grow. If you can grow a geranium, you can likewise grow an African violet plant indoors, and furthermore, make it bloom! Here's all you need to do—

1. . . provide lots of light. Plant can set in east, west, or south exposure window. Put it at least a foot in, from the window. Pull the window shade down if sun starts to shine directly on the plant. Window shade should be down, just enough to cut off direct sunlight, but allow indirect light to swirl around the plant.

2. . . quarter-turning plant once a week helps it to grow evenly on all sides of the pot.

3. . . give plant proper watering. Some violet fanciers water plants from the top of the soil. Do not wet the leaves or leaf stalks as you water the plants. Many other growers prefer to set pot in saucer or a bowl, and let the plant drink up the water through the hole of the pot bottom. Water only as plants need it. Too much water will cause plant to go soft, eventually rot off. Too little water will cause leaves to wilt. Check moisture content of soil by feeling the soil with your finger. If soil feels powdery, plant is needing a drink of water. If soil feels sticky, it has enough moisture for the time being.

4. . . periodic feeding is important. Simplest and easiest way is to put a teaspoonful of 6-10-4 commercial fertilizer to quart milk bottle of water. Soak overnight. Next morning stir several times. Give the violet a drink of this diluted material before the undissolved fertilizer particles have settled in the bottom of the milk bottle. This form of feeding gently nourishes the violets over a longer period of time, because the undissolved particles will gradually dissolve as you give the plant regular drinks of water!

5. . . proper circulation of air is a necessary factor for successful African violet culture. Plants won't tolerate direct drafts, or damp air.

6. . . pinch out secondary growths as they develop. This pinching out causes plant to stay one crowned. In turn plants bloom better and more freely.

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Through error these were left off the list published in the March issues.

Editor

S. OBICULARIS

Cont. from Page 21

The following description of **Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt** has been adapted from the original description found in the herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew, England and an article by B. L. Burtt in Gardners' Chronical (London), ser. 3, 122, 123 (1947):

"Calyx small, deeply 5 lobed, lobes 4 mm. long, linear, hairy; color dull brown. Corolla wide campulate, averaging 25 mm. in diameter, lobes unequal, margins hairy; color upper side almost pure white but with a violet-blue ring around the yellow anther-cells; under side of lobes white sometimes with a light violet-blue middle vein. Peduncle basal, 4-10 flowered, length 2 to 6 inches long; dull brown, densely hairy. Measurements of average corolla lobes: -- Lower center lobe 15 mm. long by 10 mm. wide; lateral lobes 11 mm. long by 9 mm. wide, upper pair 8 mm. long by 6 mm. wide and separated for half their length. A stemless species. Leaves basal, many, long petioled, ovate, acute crenate, minute short hairs on upper side, under side glabrous except for vein tracts which are slightly hairy. Alternate veining. Leaves sap green on upper side, greenish white on under side. Leaf texture thin; great variation in size of leaves; petioles dull red brown, hairy; lighter green when older. Leaf measurements vary from 35-65 mm. long by 33-67 mm. wide. Habit: growing on wet rocks (gneiss) beside a waterfall at 4,000 ft. Locality: -- Sakarre near Bungu Mission, Ambangulu.

Its Latin description is: -- "**Saintpaulia orbicularis, B. L. Burtt**, sp. nov., foliis orbicularis basi cordatis inflorescentiis plurifloris, floribus pallidioribus distinguitur."

The color of **S. orbicularis** has since been observed to vary under different environmental conditions from almost white to a light blue. Sometimes the ring in the center of the corolla is absent. Occasionally, the faint violet blue veins on the under side of the corolla lobes are too faint to be noticed. Sometimes the tips of the lobes appear to be washed with a violet blue color. Another observation, perhaps, also due to differences in environmental condition is the form of the base of young leaves. Many can be found with auriculate or ear-shaped projections at their bases.

Although its flowers are small and slightly cupped inward (campanulate) it is one of the most productive of the species regarding its flowers. This fact together with its dark ring and upright habit of growth makes it one of the most distinctive plants of either the species or varieties. In passing it may also be noted that it matures its seed very quickly.

Mr. Harvey Cox (California) was first to introduce **Saintpaulia orbicularis** into the U. S. A. The date of its introduction is 1951.

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COUSIN STREPTOCARPUS

Cont. from Page 9

POTTING, COMPOST AND FEEDING

The Streptocarpus responds best to a slightly acid soil that is rich in leaf mold -- well decomposed Bermuda loam at least 2 years old is said to be fine. This of course is not available everywhere! A good potting medium may be made from: 2 parts leaf mold, 1 part acid peat and 1 part sharp sand.

Completely renew the soil in the pot once each year from January 15th to February 15th. Remove the plant from the pot and most gently shake the soil from the roots of the plant. Repot in new soil mixture in a clean pot. This will not injure the plant if reasonable care is observed. A moist well drained soil is best -- do not plant in a heavy soil mixture as a soggy soil is injurious to the Streptocarpus.

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These interesting plants may be planted out of doors in the summer time in the flower bed if the same care is taken as for Saintpaulias planted out of doors. They do better as a pot plant however, and give better bloom.

When the plants begin to form buds feed with a complete fertilizer once each week . . . in the amount of 1 teaspoonful to a gallon of water. They will not give best results unless grown in complete shade and they will stand more cold than they are credited with. If grown in the greenhouse they should be removed when hot weather comes if they cannot be kept reasonably cool and evenly moist.

From these notes I have grown many plants and would like to add a little of my own experience with these lovely plants. Do check back to the sentence, "Three year old specimen plants will reach a spread of 24 to 30 inches with up to 100 blossoms if they are properly cared for." Do you wonder that my interest was kindled and I determined to get some of these lovely things?

The best seeds of hybrids come from England and after receiving an English catalog I found listed, "Peads hybrid Streptocarpus seed." I sent for some and followed the directions as best I could -- without the Bermuda loam of course -- I had tried previously the S. rexi as they were the only seeds I could find listed of the Streptocarpus. These new seeds grew well and I was most happy.

My regular African violet soil has proven very satisfactory and seems to suit them. From the seed I had good plants -- they grew well and began to flower in about a year from the time I first planted the seed. Small plants with only 1 or 2 leaves produced for the first time a stalk with 2 blooms. As the plants aged and grew more leaves there were more bloom stalks. Some of the 3 and 4 year olds had 4 and 5 bloom stalks at one time with 2 and 3 blooms to the stalk. As these died more would come to take their place . . .so that the plant was never without some bloom.

From our test plantings we have selected a few plants to introduce that have proven themselves worthy of cultivation. Our spring Gesneriad List includes new items such as Episcia tessellata the yellow-flowered episcia, and other choice new plants. For plant connoisseurs, we also have a list of rare and exotic Tropical Foliage Plants.

Fantastic Gardens

R. G. Wilson, 9550 S. W. 67th Avenue **South Miami 43, Florida**

Although the first blooms were most pleasing and stimulated my further interest -- it was in the third year that I realized what beautiful plants they were and what a welcome addition they were for the shaded green house. The African violet house was ideal for them . . . but they prefer the coolest spot in the place. The blossoms seem to droop when they get too warm, so I have placed them on a ground bed in the greenhouse and they like this very much!

There was a nice variation in color from this planting. Pure glistening white, light and deep pink, a light and a deep violet (purple to me) and a deep red violet. They all have either white or yellow throats with some shading out into the blossom proper. The blossoms are funnel shaped and average 3 inches in length and 2½ inches across when fully open. They are quite narrow at the base then flaring out with 5 petals -- the 2 upper petals are somewhat shorter than the lower 3. Each flower remains in bloom for about two weeks. One pale mauve beauty outclasses them all for size, with 4 inch long and 4½ inch wide flowers . . . it does have a weak stem however that the smaller blossoms do not have.

The mature leaves are quite long, about 3 inches wide and taper to a point. They are medium green in color and have a rough texture. As the new foliage is produced some of the older leaves turn yellow and should be removed from the plant.

I read in another article recently that Streptocarpus would reach a leaf spread of 30 inches in England where they have been cultivated several years. When writing this story I decided to measure my plants and see how the leaves and blossoms of mine compared with their English relatives and I was quite surprised to find that three of mine had a 25 inch leaf spread, but sadly lacking was the 100 blooms described . . . Perhaps I will make the English record yet! ! I will try —

The plants that have flowered the best for me are growing in 5 inch pots. I have placed one in a larger pot and to date it has produced many fine leaves but it has not had as many blossoms as the plants in the smaller pots. Another year may tell another story . . . and then too they may have to be pot bound to produce heavy bloom.

Streptocarpus do need to be kept evenly moist all the time. For this reason they love a cool damp greenhouse. I have grown them in an east window in the house where they did quite well and flowered satisfactorily. They seem to need much more water in the window than the Saintpaulia demands. Do not let them dry out too dry as it is very damaging to the tender feeder roots.

They have propagated easily for me from leaf cuttings. Just pull the leaf out of the plant and place it in vermiculite or your favorite African violet growing medium. They grow young plants in the same manner at the base of the leaf as a violet does. From 4 to 5 plants may be produced from a single leaf cutting -- since this is as rapid an increase as I desire I have not divided my plants or cut them in pieces.

More from a lack of time than anything else . . . I have not tried the repotting schedule recommended in my early notes. This can be added to the long list of "must do's" for the coming winter. No doubt renewing the soil would add to the general well being of my plants.

The Streptocarpus becomes more or less dormant in the wintertime. My plants do not flower very much -- just an occasional blossom now and then, but come spring and summer and the show starts -- their heaviest crop of blooms is displayed at this time.

I cannot close this story on Streptocarpus without telling you about the nice gentleman who visited me one summer and on looking through the greenhouse and admiring my plants noticed the Streptocarpus. He said, What is that?" And when I answered with it's name, "Streptocarpus." "OH NO! he said," Don't you know -- that means a sore throat!"

So the beautiful flower, with the terrible name -- Streptocarpus -- I am recommending to you. If you are looking for something new, something lovely, something that does not require too much attention, try a Streptocarpus -- (hybrids preferred).

J. A. PETERSON SONS
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NUTRITION OF THE AFRICAN VIOLET

Cont. from Page 34

plant response in the A pots. Finally, after a suggestion by Professor Charles Sherwood that the A pots might be the most important it was decided to attempt to correlate the values obtained in the A pots alone. These results are given in graphs I, II and III.

In May the entire experiment was moved to another part of the greenhouse and more shade was supplied. This caused the light green plants to deepen in color even though no nitrogen was supplied at this time. No further additions of nutrients were made during May, June and July and tests of soil and plant tissue were made in August. As might be expected nitrates were completely exhausted in most pots. Phosphorus was still present in all pots but the amount was considerably reduced. It was not determined whether the plants or the soil fixed the most phosphorus. Potash was absent in about 20% of the pots and present in the others. However, presence or absence of potash made no noticeable difference in the appearance of the plants. During the summer both leaf and flower development were reduced due to the increasing difficulty of obtaining available nutrients, especially nitrates.

Tissue testing was begun on August 10 using the Simplex Soil Testing Outfit as recommended by Dr. Ray Cook (5). The problem was to discover which portion of the plant would show a test for the nutrients under consideration. Preliminary tests were conducted using healthy, vigorous plants which seemed to be well nourished.

It was found that the petiole of the leaf would give a test for nitrates when the blade did not. Furthermore, when nitrates became limiting in the plant, petioles from young leaves in the center of the plant showed the presence of nitrates when older petioles from the outer whorls of leaves did not.

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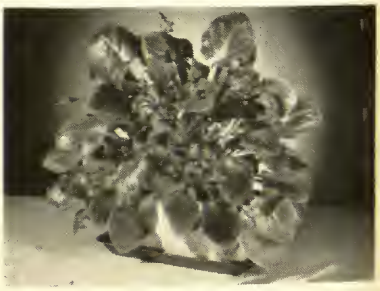

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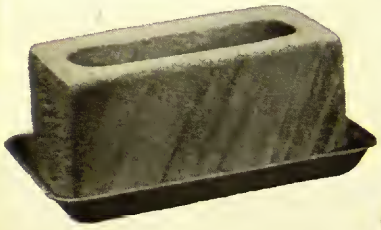

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PLANTMASTER AND TRAY $2.75 POSTPAID
C. O. D. IF YOU LIKE

UNITED STATES PUMICE SUPPLY CO.

6331 Hollywood Blvd. Los Angeles 28, California

The petioles would seldom give a positive test for phosphorus. For this nutrient the best samples were taken from the tip one-fourth of the leaf blade and old leaves gave more positive tests than new leaves.

Potash was found so seldom that little definite could be determined concerning its location in the plant. The lower portion of the leaf blade plus the base of the midrib may give a better test than other tissues but this was not definitely proven.

There is some question of the value of tissue testing because these tests prove only the presence of uncombined nitrates and phosphorus. A negative test will show that there is no "luxury consumption" by the plant but may not prove actual nutrient starvation.

Most of the healthy plants tested as outlined above showed high nitrates, low to medium phosphorus and blank (or rarely low) potash present in the tissues.

In general, the plants which had received no nutrients during the summer showed low phosphorus and gave blank tests for nitrates and potash. There were ten plants, however, which tested medium to high for nitrates in the tissues and in all cases the soil tests showed 10 ppm. or less of both nitrates and phosphorus. The soil tests were as follows when the plants tested high in nitrogen in the tissue:

NO_3	P	K	NO_3	P	K
0	0.5	10	2	0.5	0
0	1	10	2	1	0
0	2.5	40	2	2.5	60
0	2.5	100	5	1	0
0	10	20	10	1	5

Concluded in Sept. African Violet Magazine

Ordinary FlowerPots become Self-Watering

GLASWIK

Sensational -- made from pure spun glass. The Glaswik can be inserted in the drain hole of any flower pot. No more worry about over or under watering.

1 Atlas Glaswik and black plastic saucer .45c (3 for $1.25).
Glaswik also available in 3½" lengths or continuous lengths as required.

Exclusive distributors for Atlas Plant Glaswik

Holley Distributing Co.
515 Walnut St.
LANDSDALE 3, PA.

New Revolving FLOWER TREES

For Your Cherished AFRICAN VIOLETS

Made of lustrous rustproof spun aluminum. Each tray is Waterproof, and holds up to ½ inch of water. Plants can be watered the ideal way—from the bottom. No individual watering. This tree holds up to 18 four-inch African Violet flower pots, yet requires only 20-inch diameter floor space. Each tray rotates freely about center for even sunning of plants.

These flower trees are available in three heights:

36" high, 9" from floor to lower tray, 9" between trays
$24.50 each, or 2 for $47.50 express prepaid

42" high, 15" from floor to lower tray, 9" between trays
$26.00 each or 2 for $50.50 express prepaid

48" high, 18" from floor to lower tray, 10" between trays
$27.50 each or 2 for $53.50 express prepaid

Also comes in SOLID WOOD with beautiful WALNUT or MAHOGANY finish, as in photo at right. 42" high. Trays rotate freely, but do not hold water like the aluminum trees.
$24.50 each, or 2 for $47.50 express postpaid. Specify finish. WOOD TREE (unfinished)—finish to match your own furniture—only $21.50 or 2 for $41.00, express prepaid.

AFRICAN VIOLET FLOWER POTS

Famous **CERAMO** Squatty Pots. Used and recommended by Florists. Of dark red clay, with excellent porosity. Specially treated edges help prevent sloughing off of leaves.

8	4-in. pots	$2.00
6	5-in. pots	2.00
10	3-in. pots	2.00

SPUN ALUMINUM SAUCERS

—for 3", 4", or 5" pots . . . 12 for $4.65

Sent postpaid. 25c set postage extra west of the Rockies.

OZARK SPUNALUM COMPANY, P. O. BOX 59-AV, JACKSON, MISSOURI

NOW You Can Have Beautiful, Healthy African Violets, With Less Care and Attention

G-Q

Try the GRO-QUICK Method

If you could visit our plant rooms you would see thousands of African violets in all stages of growth -- from seed, rooted leaves, divided plants and plants over a year old. Here you would find your favorite varieties, together with some new types of breathtaking beauty.

You would also discover that not one of these thousands of plants is growing in soil. All have lived their entire lives in Vermiculite, with Gro-Quickr nutrient solution their only food.

For germinating seed and leaf cuttings, gentle bottom heat is supplied by Gro-Quick seed bed heating cables. Fluorescent lights furnish most of the light for the growing plants, since many of them are growing in a basement.

In the bottom of each pot you will find an aerating pad of G-Q Fiberglas. All the larger plants are growing in plastic pots and are fed by G-Q Fiberglas capillary wicks.

The Gro-Quick method of African violet propagation and culture is not entirely original with us. Its demonstrable success is the result of experimentation with the best features of several outstanding growers and combining them in a way to make it simpler and easier for the average person to grow African violets.

Frankly, we were never successful at raising violets in soil. We tried it for years. We "followed the book." But we were never quite satisfied, either as to the growth or bloom.

But within a few weeks after repotting some of our old plants in vermiculite we were rewarded with a wealth of bloom. And they continue to bloom profusely -- as all good African violets should. Many hundreds of our customers, neighbors, club members and friends have tried our method and say they will never go back to soil culture and the mess that goes with it.

The GRO-QUICK Culture System is Simple, Sure, Practical, Clean

You realize, of course, that vermiculite alone is not the answer to all the problems that face the serious African violet fancier. Improper watering, stale air or lack of ventilation, too little light, low humidity and extremes of temperature are all important.

The Gro-Quick system, therefore, combines many things, all of which contribute to successful growing -- vermiculite. G-Q Fiberglas wicks and aerating pads, special wick-fed pots, G-Q heating cables and thermostats, sprays, water pourers and the time-tested G-Q nutrient solution.

It's the combination that counts. It's the combination that insures beautiful, healthy violets with less care and attention. It's the combination that lets you throw away your old unsightly pots, soil mixture and fertilizers. So stop coddling and fussing. Start the Gro-Quick system and watch your thumb turn green.

Accept Our Special "Get Acquainted" Offers
Full Details on the Following Pages

The GRO-QUICK GUARANTY

We guarantee that you must be completely satisfied with every purchase or your money will be refunded.

GRO-QUICK SALES

11145 Morang Road Detroit 24, Mich.

GRO-QUICK Rooted Cuttings are Your BEST BUY

These healthy, true to type leaves are grown by the GRO-QUICK Method, using vermiculite, GRO-QUICK aerating pads, GRO-QUICKR plant food and GRO-QUICK bottom heat electric cable.

Your Satisfaction Guaranteed

- The roots are larger, stronger, and will stand shipping shock much better.
- Many of these G-Q cuttings have from 6 to 10 small plants attached to the mother leaf.
- Cuttings are packed with G-Q Fiberglas, that can be re-used for wicks and aerating pads.
- Detailed, illustrated instructions on dividing, potting, etc., are included.
- G-Q rooted cuttings are state inspected. They are disease and insect free.
- Your satisfaction is guaranteed, or your money cheerfully refunded.

50¢ Each

6 for $2.50 12 for $4.50

Amethyst
Bicolor (Red Bicolor)
Blue Bobby
Blue Girl
Blue Treasure
Blue Velvet
Double Duchess (Double Blue Boy)
Double Margaret
Hardee Blue
Ionantha
Ison
Jessie (West Coast Amethyst)
Mentor Boy (Chattanooga)
Red Beauty
Red Head
Rose Border Ruffles
Sailor Girl
Show Girl
Topaz
White Boy Hybrids
White Water Lily

75¢ Each

6 for $3.75 12 for $6.75

Black Beauty (Mentor Boy Supreme)
Blue Dupont
Blue Eyed Beauty
Bronze Bicolor Carmen
Cleveland Indian
Diplotricha (Kewensis)
Double Neptune
(Queen Neptune)
Double Orchid Girl
Fantasy
Orchid Neptune
Orchid Girl
Pink Delight
Purple Girl
Red Head Supreme
Red Lady
Red Mentor Boy
Rosalie
Rosie O'Grady
Snow Girl
Snow Prince
Tinted Lady (Gray Lady)
Violet Beauty
White Girl

$1.00 Each

6 for $5.00 12 for $9.00

Apple Blossom
Azure Beauty
Fluffy Doubles
Grotei
Lacy Girl
Moonbeam
Orchid Sunset
Purple Lace
Purity
Royal Girl
Ruffled Beauty
Ruffled Queen
Sailor's Delight
Velvet Girl

Labeled for Identification

All cuttings come to you properly labeled. Preserve their identity by using markers on every pot.

Get a Supply of G-Q Lifetime Plastic Markers

White plastic. Easily marked. Use over and over again. 4½" long. 100 for $1.00, postpaid.

HERE ARE TWO BIG GET ACQUAINTED SAMPLE OFFERS

SHIPPING and TERMS

When ordering rooted cuttings (except on sample orders at right) add 50c shipping charge on orders less than $5.00. Orders of $5.00 or more shipped prepaid parcel post, special handling. Please give second choice. Full refund if we cannot fill your order in reasonable time. No. C.O.D.'S. Send check or money order with orders.

OFFER NO. 1 -- $1.00

Your choice, any 50c or 75c rooted cutting and illustrated instructions.
Sample of GRO-QUICKR, the perfect food for African violets.
Enough G-Q Fiberglas for 40 glass wicks or 20 aerating pads.
5 G-Q lifetime plastic markers.

OFFER NO. 2 -- $2.00

Your choice, any two rooted cuttings, 50c, 75c or $1.00, with instructions.
Sample of GRO-QUICKR, the perfect food for African violets.
Enough G-Q Fiberglas for 80 glass wicks or 40 aerating pads.
10 G-Q lifetime plastic markers.

GRO-QUICK PRODUCTS MAKE HAPPY GARDENERS

G-Q SUPPLIES and ACCESSORIES

Needed by Every Grower of African Violets

G-Q BRONZE PLASTIC POTS and SAUCERS

3" Size	3½" Size	4½" Size
3 for $.90	3 for $1.20	3 for $1.45
6 for 1.45	6 for 2.05	6 for 2.75
12 for 2.60	12 for 3.90	12 for 4.85

THE PRICES ABOVE ARE POSTPAID.

These attractive bronze color pots harmonize with most home furnishings. They feature handsome design, stability on base, ventilating and drainage ribs in tray, center spacer for pots in trays and flared, curved rim for leaf and stem support. You'll like 'em.

4" PLASTIC HYDRO-FED POTS

Attractive and practical, in your choice of red, green, yellow, chartreuse and bronze.

Postpaid Prices
60c each, 3 for $1.60, 6 for $2.75. Equipped with G-Q glass wicks, 75c each, 3 for $1.95, 6 for 3.50.

5" PLASTIC FERT-L-FED POTS

These handsome pots are available in your choice of red, green, yellow and bronze.

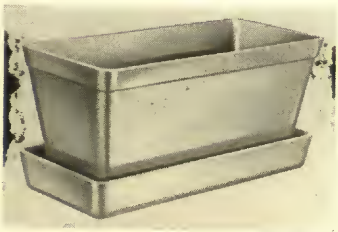
Postpaid Prices
75c each, 2 for $1.35
6 for $3.65

G-Q BLACK PLASTIC POTS

2" Size	2¼" Size
30 for $1.50 postpaid	30 for $1.70 postpaid
100 for 3.75 postpaid	60 for 4.20 postpaid
600 for 13.75 frt. collect	500 for 12.50 frt. collect

PROP-R-FED PLANTER

3½" x 3½" x 8", in red, green, yellow, chartreuse and bronze.
Postpaid, $1.25 each, 3 for $3.35, 6 for 5.95.



GRO-QUICKR THE PERFECT PLANT FOOD for AFRICAN VIOLETS

One Pound Can, $1.25 Postpaid

The result of lifetime research by an outstanding authority in the hydroponic (water culture) field. Not an ordinary fertilizer, but a complete mixture containing all essential food elements and trace minerals. Offered only after our remarkable success using G-Q vermiculite watered with one-half teaspoonful Gro-Quickr to one gallon of warm water. It may also be used with your regular soil mixture every other week. Try it!

5" PLASTIC POT WITH GLASS WICK

Many successful growers consider wick feeding a "must." Pots do not tip easily. Visible water supply is a great convenience. Your choice of red, green, yellow or bronze.

Postpaid, 95c each, 2 for $1.70, 6 for $4.60.

G-Q VERMICULITE

- ROOTING MEDIUM
- ROOTING CUTTINGS
- SEED GERMINATION
- SOIL CONDITIONER
- BULB STORAGE
- MULCH
- GROWING MEDIUM FOR HYDROPONICS

POSTPAID PRICES

Zones	thru 3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1 lb.	$.70	$.73	$.77	$.82	$.86	$.90
2 lb.	1.10	1.15	1.21	1.28	1.34	1.41
4 lb.	1.70	1.78	1.90	2.05	2.18	2.34
8 lb.	2.30	2.43	2.63	3.18	3.40	3.64

NOTE: Due to excessive shipping and parcel post charges we suggest you save money by buying locally if possible. Ask your building supply dealer for Zonolite concrete or plaster aggregate. Garden supply stores also carry it under various trade names. We ship only as an accomodation.

G-Q SQUEEZE SPRAY

85¢ Each, 2 for $1.50, Ppd.

This 6 ounce atomizing spray has everything. Compact, good looking, unbreakable. Better order a couple — one for misty water spray for leaves and one for insecticides.

G-Q PLASTIC WATER PORER

The handiest gadget ever for no-spill watering. You'll love it. Your choice of red, green, yellow or bronze. Holds one pint.

90¢ Each. 2 for $1.50. 4 for $2.50. Postpaid
An ideal gift. Order extras for friends.

GRO-QUICK SALES
11145 Morang Road
DETROIT 24, MICHIGAN

G-Q FIBERGLAS, for WICK FEEDING AERATING PADS and OTHER USES

Flower growers report amazing success when using this special G-Q Fiberglas for wicks, aerating pads, lining flower boxes, planting slips and starting plants in flats. Complete directions with each order.

WICK FEEDING — For ordinary flower pots cut G-Q Fiberglas into strips. Push the moistened wick through the drainage hole in the pot and flatten out. Then place an aerating pad in the bottom of the pot and plant in your regular way.

The pot must be supported OVER the water, and the water level should not be above the bottom of the pot for more than a few hours.

The plants are fed water or plant food entirely by capillarity, which furnishes the right amount of moisture -- not too little -- not too much.

AERATING PADS — Cut G-Q Fiberglas in squares and place in the pot. Then plant in the regular way. When repotting, transplant Fiberglas and all. This prevents any injury to the fine, hair-like feeder roots and promotes faster more vigorous growth in the transplanted plant.

WICK FEEDING FOR SEED FLATS — Strips of G-Q Fiberglas in the bottom of the flat, extending into a water pan beneath, afford a convenient, inexpensive method of wick feeding and watering, and saves seedlings from washing out.

LINING FLOWER BOXES — Proper root development requires air as well as food and water. G-Q Fiberglas used as lining on sides and bottom provides it.

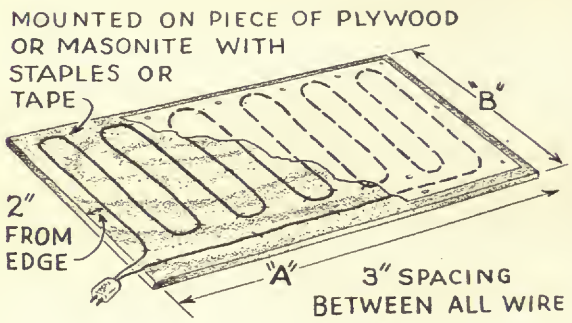
STARTING SLIPS AND CUTTINGS — Roll a couple layers of G-Q Fiberglas around the cutting. Plant with top at ground level. You'll be delighted with the high percentage of "take." When transplanting do not remove Fiberglas.

FOR SHIPPING — Plants started in G-Q Fiberglas may be shipped with minimum damage to feeder roots -- and consequently minimum setbacks. They also ship at minimum weight.

INEXPENSIVE --

30 ft. roll, 3" wide ..... only $1.00 postpaid
Makes 240 glass wicks or 120 aerating pads.

90 ft., 3" wide ..... only $2.75 postpaid



G-Q BOTTOM HEAT CABLES

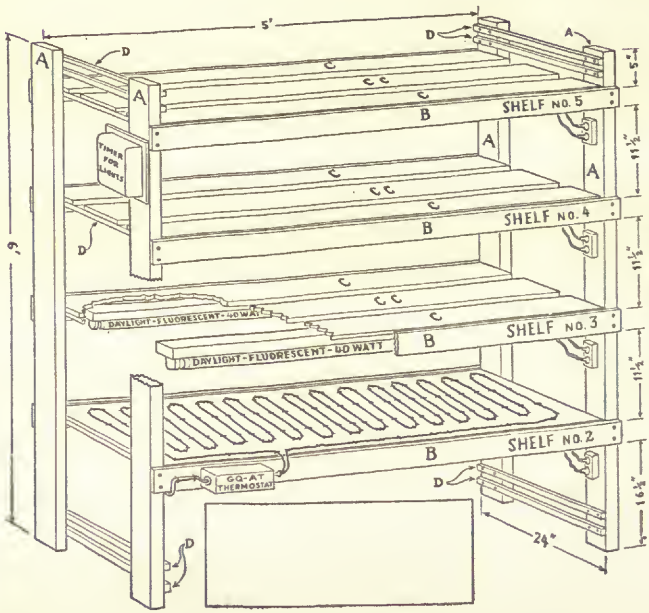
Determine number of square feet to be heated and select cables you need. One thermostat will control several cables. Instructions with order.

A6	15 watts	1½ sq. ft.	$1.00
B12	30 "	3 " "	1.80
M26	60 "	6 " "	2.80
P40	100 "	9 " "	2.80
J56	140 "	14 " "	3.00
S112	280 "	28 " "	6.00

AT thermostat, will handle 1,000 watts, $4.50

Above Prices Postpaid

We carry a complete range of cables from $1.00 size to large, heavy duty cables for large, commercial installations.



BUILD YOUR OWN G-Q AFRICAN VIOLET GROWING RACK

You can grow the finest plants, even in basement or dark rooms, with this scientifically designed rack, bottom heat, fluorescent lights and automatic heat control. It has a capacity of over 1,000 plants in 2" or 2¼" pots. Shelves 1 and 5 are adjustable.

We will furnish you complete plans, together with schematic wiring diagram and material list for $1.00.

We have built and operate a great many of these racks and can testify to their value in helping produce superior plants and blooms.

GRO-QUICK SALES

11145 Morang Road
Phone TUxedo 5-5828
DETROIT 24, MICHIGAN

GROWING AFRICAN VIOLETS WITH 300 F. C.

Cont. from Page 20

It all started as a decorative touch, with a few African violet plants on one window shelf. Their lovely foliage and cheerful blooms were so attractive that we soon added more shelves, and then -- filled more windows. First, my husband cut glass shelves from an old windshield but, after cutting his finger on their ragged edges, he ordered shelves from the glass store. Soon he was ordering five shelves (one window full) at a time -- and grumbling each time.

I had been buying blooming plants, with an occasional small plant, until I saw Lady Geneva. She was so pert and lovely, the first banded violet I had seen, but the dealer refused to sell one because she did not have a patent license. However, after much teasing, she weakened and "gave" me a leaf with instructions for rooting and growing. I was so excited over "growing my own," that I started taking leaves from my plants and rooting them in bread tins. After two weeks, and no signs of little plants, the grouchy male suggested tossing them out. Then one day a few green specks appeared. How those little babies pushed up! The now interested male, started speculating which leaf would become the next parent and solicitously watching each plantlet's growth. Actually, he measured them with a ruler, as he now measures the blossoms with half and silver dollar pieces. It was real fun to "watch the babies grow." We thrilled to each new leaf and bud stalk as it opened.

In the meantime the plants, in the windows, were also growing and beginning to crowd for space -- but by now it was easier to obtain new shelves, from the no longer grumbling male. Along about Easter time we had a lot of small duplicate plants growing up, and we were wondering which ones we would have to throw away, when a friend suggested selling the surplus. They were quickly sold, through a small ad in the local paper, and only the lack of window space curbed my desire to grow and sell more of these fascinating plants.

Later, on a vacation trip, we spied a huge cluster of greenhouses with a magic name -- "Fischers." We just had to stop and take a peek! Several hours were spent with Paul Rockelmann, their hybridizer, admiring the many new varieties they were developing and gaining much valuable information. Mr. Rockelmann suggested that we use artificial light to supplant our window deficiency. Previously, we had used a bridge lamp, to set bud stalks in a few stubborn plants, with gratifying results. So, when we drove away, the car was loaded with new violets. All the way home we kept wondering where to keep them until we obtained suitable lighting. The first thing was to unpack and care for them. We stopped at a Five and Dime Store and bought cookie trays to place on a bed, in the guest room, with a bridge lamp on each side of the bed for light. The next morning we started visiting other violet lovers, who were using artificial light, to learn all we could regarding lamp culture. What we saw was disappointing. Many plants were rank and leggy, due to low light intensity. The lamps hung too high (as later experiments disclosed), in an attempt to cover a large number of plants.

Now my research training asserted itself. We turned for information to the experts; lamp manufactuers, Cornell and Ohio State Universities and, the local utility company. An obliging light engineer from the utility company furnished technical information regarding the number and spacing of fixtures to flood-light given areas. A front parlor was immediately turned into a "Violet Room" with a battery of fluorescent lamps, hung from the ceiling and adjustable with counter weights so we could measure light intensity at various lamp distances from the flower-pot tops. This battery of lamps grouped under one large reflector, raised the foot candle power and greatly increased the light intensity over the area, saving, in our case, the expense of two extra fixtures. Three standard flat fixtures with dual 40 watt bulbs eliminated fringe areas and furnished ample growing and conditioning light for the entire bed, which is five feet wide by six feet long. A light meter soon determined the correct height of the lamps from the flower pots. for best results. Further experiments disclosed the number of lamps required for different bed areas and different height elevations for various growing conditions. We now have five violet beds, under adjustable fluorescent lamps, to accommodate different conditioning and growing requirements. We are also installing single fluorescent valance-lamps above some of the windows, to correct the limited winter-light conditions in these particular windows.

Experience has shown that ample light intensity can be easily and cheaply obtained with fluorescent lamps. The advantages in favor of artificial light, when used ten to twelve hours daily at 300 foot candle intensity, seem tremendous: We are free from the ill effects of either limited or excessive sunshine, the violets grow and blossom rapidly, they grow symmetrical, the leaves have more luster and sheen, the humidity condition is more stable because of the quantity of plants in one area, they consume less care-time because plants do not reach for the light and do not require continual turning to grow symmetrical and compact, strong healthy plants offer more resistance to attacking enemies, plants also adjust more rapidly to house conditions when brought in from greenhouses and, when they are removed from under the lamps they suffer no set-backs.

What began as a small decorative touch, has now "blossomed" commercially into Naomi's African Violet Rooms; but, if we only had one plant -- instead of the hundreds we now enjoy -- we would certainly place that one under a lamp, at least a portion of the time, to secure maximum results.

Club NEWS

Maxine Wangberg, Club Editor
1920 W. 3rd. St.
Perry, Iowa.

HASTINGS NEBRASKA

The Hastings African Violet Club of Hastings, Nebraska, celebrated their first birthday in February. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month in the City Council Chambers except when invited to homes of members. The club has a membership of twenty-five charter members and three new members.

Last May they held their first exhibit, and other activities were; a breakfast held in Heartwell Park in August, and a Christmas party.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. Harry Mills
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Garth Osterhout
Secretary,	Mrs. C. J. Pedersen
Treasurer,	Mrs. F. W. Dinnell
Reporter,	Mrs. Celia Nuss

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

The first meeting of the Rainbow African Violet Club of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was held at the home of Mrs. Opal Sullivan on January 17, 1952. This is the second club to organize in Fort Wayne.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

President,	Mrs. Opal Sullivan
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. E. W. Longfellow
Secretary,	Mrs. F. R. McLain
Treasurer,	Mrs. O. D. Goddard
Publicity and Historian	Mrs. C. R. Rodez

CUMBERLAND COUNTY NEW JERSEY

The Cumberland County African Violet Society of New Jersey, was organized in December 1951, and has a membership of twenty. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the members homes.

The following officers were elected for 1952:

President,	Mrs. Ellen Peck
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Anna Neileib
Secretary,	Mrs. Emma Davenport
Treasurer,	Mrs. Pearl Seabrook

The club project for 1952 is to see how well each member can grow plants from a leaf of Blue Boy. The means of planting is to be discussed at an early meeting and all are to use the same method.

LINCOLN NEBRASKA

Lincoln African Violet Society of Lincoln Nebraska, was organized April 21, 1951. This is the first and only violet club in Lincoln.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Byford Pattison
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. C. W. McGraw
Secy. Treas.,	Mrs. Bernice Krieger

At the twentieth annual flower show of the Garden Club of Lincoln held on June 2nd and 3rd of last year, the newly organized violet group was asked to enter a non-competitive display. A total of two hundred and ten plants, with one hundred and ninety varieties, was displayed. They were presented with the "Seal of Recognition of Merit."

Membership now totals twenty nine and the show committee is composed of the officers with one exception. Mrs. Charles Reed was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. C. W. McGraw.

Other newly elected officers are:

Secretary,	Mrs. Loren Nelson
Treasurer,	Mrs. George Erickson

Publicity Chairman is Mrs. George Swingle, editor of the garden column of the Lincoln Morning Star.

CLEVELAND OHIO

The Cleveland Saintpaulia Society, formerly known as the Metropolitan Cleveland African Violet Society, has completed two successful years with Mrs. Frank Pochurek as president. Officers for 1952 are:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Hodan
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Leslie Conant
Secretary,	Mrs. M. H. McMahon
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Held
Librarian-Historian,	Mrs. S. Kiraly
Trustees,	Mrs. Louis Brabander
	Mrs. Frank Pochurek

Membership is limited to thirty-five, all of whom are required to be members of the National Society.

SUPPLIES
for
AFRICAN VIOLET
GROWING

INSECTICIDES

NNOR, Lindane, Sodium Selenate, Kapsulate, Optox, Optox Special, Soilene, Marvel Spray, Detex, and others.

FUNGICIDES

Fermate, Arasan, Anti-Damp. Others.

FERTILIZERS

Hyponex, Electra, NuPhosk, Plant Marvel. Others.

FOR MIXING POTTING SOIL

Bone Meal, Charcoal, Ground Limestone, Hyper Humus, Gypsum, Leaf Mold, Limestone Chips, Peat Moss, Superphosphate.

GLASS WICKING

All sizes and lengths.

OTHER ITEMS

Plastic plant labels, metal foil, Vitamin B^1, pots (clay and plastic), vermiculite, Rootone, plate glass, duPont Garden Products, sprayers.

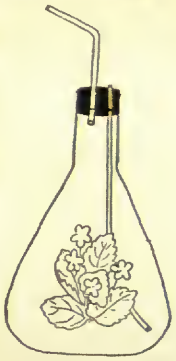
Patronize local African violet dealers who handle any of these products. The supplies they don't carry are available by mail from me.

Write for Catalogue. If you sell African violets ask for Dealer Price List too.

NEIL C. MILLER
Layton's Lake, R. D.
PENNS GROVE 6, N. J.

NEW
NO DRIP VIOLET WATERER

Will not drip and spot Leaves is handy to use watering or treating plants with Sodium Selenate or Liquid Plant Food.



Capacity 1 Quart

Violet Painted Design

Order from

ESTHER WHITE
1410 Newton St.
Akron 5, Ohio

Price $2.50

DAVENPORT IOWA

Members of the African Violet Society of America living in Davenport, Iowa, have organized a new club to be known as the Davenport African Violet Society. At present there are sixteen members and meetings are held in the members homes.

Mr. Lyle Resser, an African violet grower from Genneseo, Illinois, was guest speaker at the March meeting.

Officers elected were:

President,	H. E. Niemann
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Paul Ryan
Secy. Treas.,	Miss Lauretta L. Littig

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

Mrs. Theodore M. Greer of Golden, Colorado, Regional Director of the National African Violet Society, assisted in organizing an African Violet Club in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Officers elected to direct the newly formed club are:

Chairman,	Mrs. L. W. Banks
Vice-Chairman,	Mrs. Rulon Binnion
Sec. Treas.,	Mrs. John Jensen
Hostess,	Mrs. Robert Paul
Telephone,	Mrs. Lyman Kidman

The officers will hold office for a four month period and will work out a program for the club. Members voted to affiliate with the National Society.

SPRINGFIELD PENNSYLVANIA

The African Violet Society of Springfield, Pennsylvania held their election of officers in November. The following were elected:

President,	Mrs. Ralph G. Frye
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Donald Taber
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. William Ester
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. B. Carll
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. C. Zachow

A Christmas party was held in the home of Mrs. John Panton, with Mrs. Edward Jones, cohostess. Members exchanged gifts. Candy and cookies were given for the children at the Home for Incurables, Philadelphia. Plants were given for the adults at the Home. The children were given candy for Valentines Day and the adults, flowers for Easter.

Vacationists . . . . stop and visit
MRS. LeROY HUMAN'S
LITTLE AFRICAN VIOLET SHOP
320 Niagara St. North Tonawanda, N. Y.
Our town is located between Buffalo and Niagara Falls on Routes 265, 384 and U. S. Highway 62.

Granger Gardens

offers

Rooted Cuttings

Because of the tremendous response to our other ad we are offering the following rooted cuttings of the newest varieties. The varieties listed below are lovely well developed rooted cuttings. All merchandise is guaranteed to be from the originator and is authentically named.

LADY GENEVA — dark blue blossom -- with sparkling white edge .75

BLUE GIRL SELECT — mottled blue blossom, good girl foliage .75

PINK GIRL — good large pink blossoms, girl foliage .75

FANTASY — lavendar blooms with purple markings .75

DOUBLE ORCHID NEPTUNE — very large double blooms 1.00

PURITY — pure white double 1.00

SAILOR'S DELIGHT — light blue double on girl foliage 1.00

SEA GIRL — medium blue double on girl foliage 1.00

GENEVA RAINBOW — deep red blooms with frosty white edge 1.00

CARMEN — good deep red 1.00

ORCHID SUNSET — beautiful double orchid on good foliage 1.00

SNOW PRINCE — the best white on the market 1.00

VELVET GIRL — petals tips deeply shaded, dark rich orchid 1.00

BLUE HEIRESS — large du Pont blue blooms on girl foliage 1.00

TWILIGHT — white with blue markings on blossom 1.00

PINK SHEEN — white with lavendar pink markings on blossom 1.00

When ordering, please enclose your check or money order and orders under $5.00 please add $.60 for postage and packing. On orders over $5.00 orders will be sent postpaid.

May we suggest that you try our own specially prepared potting soil, not a commercially prepared product, but the same one we grow our plants in. 3 lb. for $1.10 and 5 lb. for $1.65 postpaid. No soil shipped west of the Mississippi. Also Sodium Selenate, three grams for $.50 or six grams for $1.00.

Our aim is to please you above all else by shipping good healthy plants that will reach you in good condition. We are Federally Certified and eligible to ship anywhere. For those who wish to purchase plants, please write for our price list.

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HUGH EYERDOM & SON **RFD No. 1, WADSWORTH, OHIO**

Greenhouses are open from 8:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. daily and are located one mile east of the school at Granger, Ohio.

Also open on Sundays and Holidays.

GROWERS HYBRIDIZERS

TINKER BELL - Our new miniature girl introduction for 1952. Oddly convoluted girl foliage with creamy white edging. Medium red flowers borne on tall stems well above the leaves $2.00

SUNSET LANE - Originated by Carolyn Rector, and being introduced by us this year. It makes a large plant like Blue Warrior, but the flowers are a uniform light mauve with no shading $1.50

ENCHANTRESS - A distinctive bicolor with girl foliage. The large airy flowers of lightest pink-mauve are marked at the juncture and tips of the two upper petals with deep wine red $1.50

PLANTS LEAVES SEED

Send for list

Orchard Nursery

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Orlyt GREENHOUSE

This Model

$395.00

Excellent for Growing African Violets or Anything Else You Choose

Made in sections ready for simple assembly with bolts and screws . . . . Easy-to-put-up anywhere, anytime. Orlyt shown 10 by 11 ft. is ready to put on your foundation. Five other basic models including Lean-tos and Greenhouses with straight sides priced from $175 to $780. Automatic heat and ventilation at reasonable prices. Convenient terms available.
Write for Booklet No. 59.

LORD & BURNHAM

IRVINGTON N. Y. DES PLAINES ILL.

JACKSON MICHIGAN

The First African Violet Club of Jackson, Michigan, celebrated their first birthday with a luncheon November 13, 1951, at the home of Mrs. R. S. Preston, club president. Mrs. Leslie McLaury was assistant hostess. After lunch a business meeting was held during which a plant display for April was discussed.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President,	Mrs. R. S. Preston
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Jasper Barker
Secretary,	Mrs. D. L. Bowers
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. B. Baker

LANSING MICHIGAN

The Double Ten African Violet Club of Lansing Michigan, held its last meeting of the season on December 19, 1951. The club was just one year old and much progress has been made in the raising of Saintpaulia from seed, and leaf propagation.

Election of officers was held and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President,	Mrs. Marion Olson
Vice-Pres.,	Doris Nichols
Secretary,	Maude Canfield
Treasurer,	Wilma Hopkins

A vote of thanks was given the retiring president, Helen Potruff, for her splendid work in organizing and working for the interests of the club.

WEBSTER GROVES MISSOURI

On January 17, 1951, the members of the Webster Groves, Missouri, African Violet Society met for a luncheon meeting with Mrs. L. E. Koenig as hostess. Mrs. C. F. Schroeder gave a talk on "Look Alikes."

Election of officers was held with the following officers to begin their duties in March:

President,	Mrs. W. F. Moch
Vice-Pres. & Program Chm.,	Mrs. W. R. Stevens
Treasurer,	Mrs. W. L. Paulus
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. M. A. Renick
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. R. A. Duncan

At the March meeting with Mrs. G. W. Chambers, retiring president, as hostess, the officers will be installed. The members of the Viking African Violet Club, the second club to be organized in Webster Groves, will be the guests. Dr. Gustav Mehlquist, Research Horticulturist at the Missouri Botanical Garden will speak on "Control of Diseases and Insects."

The May 15, 1952, meeting will be with Mrs. R. A. Duncan and will feature a report of the Highlights of the National Convention.

Plans are well under way for a show to be held on April 5-6. The Viking and Normandy clubs will also participate in the show.

Exciting New Varieties

IMMEDIATE delivery of fresh cut leaves

Save money -:- watch the babies grow.

Our leaf-cuttings are from strong, healthy, stock-plants free from pests. Each leaf is labeled with its correct name, and separately sealed to maintain its freshness. A packet of special chemical is included with all shipments, to prevent leaf-rot before rooting and, to assure your success. Shipments are by first class mail to insure reaching you quickly and in the best condition — wherever you live. Safe delivery guaranteed anywhere in the United States. Simple growing instructions are included with each order of 10 or more leaves. Our credit reference is the Brockport Office of the Lincoln-Rochester Trust Company, Brockport, N. Y.

GRAND AWARD: The giant of doubles, medium blue, nice foliage $1.00

PINK CHEER: Pictured on front cover. Deep pink, good foliage $1.00

RUFFLED QUEEN: Highly ruffled dark burgundy, du Pont foliage $1.00

THE BALLERINAS: Fischer's new strain of fringed violets . . . . . All six $2.50

MINUET: Mauve
BALLET: White
BOLERO: Velvet blue
POLONAISE: Light blue
SARABAND: Red Lavender
CAROUSEL: Lavendar-blue

S I N G L E S .50¢ per leaf.

APPLE BLOSSOM: Large white with orchid center. du Pont foliage.

BLUE HEIRESS: Giant brilliant blue flower, du Pont girl foliage.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS: Blue and green ball-blossom, shaped like it's name.

GENEVA RAINBOW: White margined burgundy flower. Lady Geneva counterpart.

LACY GIRL: Large dark purple ruffled blooms. Wavy foliage.

OPAL GIRL: Pale opalescent lavender.

PAINTED GIRL: Exciting white flower banded with orchid edges.

PINK DELIGHT: Dainty light clear pink flowers. Dark bronzy foliage.

PURPLE DAWN: Unusual shade of light purple. A profuse bloomer.

PURPLE LACE: Large dark purple ruffled blooms. Good bloomer.

QUEEN BETTY: Pastel pink and white bi-color. Charming, dainty and unusual.

ROSE MARIE: True rose color. Nicely quilted dark foliage.

RUFFLED BEAUTY: Red bi-color. Highly ruffled girl foliage.

SNOW GIRL: Large pure white blossom. Lovely girl foliage.

SNOW PRINCE: Large pure white blossom. Heavy bloomer.

RED LADY: (Ulery) Clear red flower, does not fade. Beautiful girl foliage.

VELVET GIRL: Unusual, pansy shaped, two toned dark garnet and orchid red.

D O U B L E S .50¢ per leaf.

APOLLO: Semi-double very large light blue flowers. Excellent bloomer.

DEBUTANTE: Mauve to pale misty lavender, a sensational shade.

FLUFFY DOUBLE: Variegated blue and white double.

LIGHT BLUE DOUBLE FRINGETTE: Large fringed flowers, wavy foliage.

DARK BLUE DOUBLE FRINGETTE: Large fringed deep blue, wavy foliage.

LIGHT LAVENDER ROSETTE: Large light lavender, free blooming.

MAGNIFICO: Double orchid bi-color -- a new Ulery hybrid.

RAINBOW AZURE BEAUTY: Variegated white and light blue.

RAINBOW DARK BEAUTY: Variegated white and medium blue.

RAINBOW DELIGHT: Striking large light blue double.

RAINBOW ORCHID SUNSET: Large red-orchid flower. Dark green foliage.

RAINBOW PURITY: The first double white.

RAINBOW ROSE: White edged or suffused with rose.

SAILOR'S DELIGHT: Light blue double flowers. Girl foliage.

SEA GIRL: Medium dark blue. Girl foliage.

TEAR DROP: The baby of doubles. Profusion of small light blue flowers.

On orders under $5.00 please add 60¢ for packaging and postage. Orders of $5.00 and over will be mailed postpaid.

NAOMI'S AFRICAN VIOLET ROOMS

141 HOLLEY STREET BROCKPORT, N. Y.

NOTE: Plants in all sizes sold at the Rooms, but not shipped.

KANSAS CITY SHOW

The African Violet Society of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, held their second annual show in the Little Theater of the Municipal Auditorium on February 23 and 24, 1952. An estimated 3,500 visitors attended.

The Little Theater was specially lighted for the show to bring out the delicate variance in colors. Many new varieties of African violets were shown.

An educational exhibit on the propagation and care of plants was under the direction of a husband and wife team, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Seever.

A special table, showing interesting ways of using violets in appropriate containers for each month of the year, was designed by Mrs. E. F. Dunlap and Mrs. Fred Walkenhorst.

There were twenty competitive divisions with the Sweepstakes award being won by Mrs. George Pendleton.

Mrs. J. R. Bush of Muncie, Kansas, won the tricolors for the best plant in the show. This was a specimen plant of Double Neptune.

Mrs. R. Milton Cochran became the first grower in America to win the National African Violet Society's new gold ribbon award for a top collection of three named varieties each to score 90 or better.

DETROIT MICHIGAN

The Detroit Garden Center sponsored an African Violet Clinic on the afternoon of November 14, 1951. Mrs. Dorothy Gray, president of the Border Cities African Violet Club was chairman.

The features of the afternoon were the "Hospital and Pharmacy" table. Mrs. Gray illustrated removing suckers from plants, how to re-root old plants, and how to recognize and control mite, thrip and mealy bug.

Mrs. S. Bouton, Director of the Garden Centre, used the propagating table to demonstrate her way of propagating leaves. An example of "pot in the pan" was shown.

Mr. Edward Gawel spoke on the water method of propagating leaves and use of a mixture of sand, vermiculite and peat moss for small plants.

A discussion on pollenization followed.

There was a display of thirty varieties of violets from members private collections.

Officers for 1952 are:

President,	Mrs. Dorothy Gray
Vice-Pres.,	Harold Thompson
Rec. Secy.,	Mrs. Andrew Leslie
Corres. Secy.,	Edward Gawel
Treasurer,	Mrs. Ruth Holtz

This group was organized November 27, 1950, and is the first local Chapter of the National African Violet Society.

Meetings are held every second Monday of each month at the Garden Center in Bell Isle Park. Membership now totals thirty-two.

ELGIN ILLINOIS

The Unique Saintpaulia Club of Elgin, Illinois, announce the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. Joseph Cyka
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ernest Benson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Helen Walker
Secretary,	Mrs. Ray Neidert
Press Reporter,	Mrs. Wm. Jacobson
Librarian,	Mrs. John Wills
Year Book,	Miss Velda Lindholm

EAST ATHENS PENNSYLVANIA

The T, e, og a Point African Violet Club of East Athens, Pennsylvania, held their Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Harry Farr. A chicken supper and gift exchange was the highlight of the meeting.

Officers were elected as follows:

President,	A. W. Truesdale
Vice-Pres.,	Merton Everett
Secretary,	Mrs. Lydia Arnts
Treasurer,	G. L. Duggan

SIOUX CITY IOWA

Two projects are being worked on by the sixty-six members of the Siouxland African Violet Society of Sioux City, Iowa. The first project is for a show to be held in Sioux City on May 3. The second to supply over a hundred blooming violets for shut-ins in and around the city, which are to be distributed through the Sunshine League of Sioux City at their annual party in June.

At one of the club meetings leaves were sold after one of the members had used them in giving an illustrated talk on old and new varieties of violets. This money was then given to the club. At another meeting a member donated several plants which were auctioned off. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the Sioux City Art Center.

DOWNERS GROVE ILLINOIS

The new officers of the African Violet Club of Downers Grove, Illinois, held their first meeting at the home of their new president, Mrs. S. P. McGraw, on January 3, 1952.

The club is two years old and limits the membership to eighteen members, as the meetings are held in the homes. A second club is being formed by Mrs. Robert Hanska, a charter member of the original club.

New officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. S. P. McGraw
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. H. V. Sutter
Secretary,	Mrs. A. Giddings
Treasurer,	Mrs. E. Michael

Something NEW for African Violet Collectors

Attractive

Compact

Sturdy

Easily Moved

Holds More Than

200 — 3 inch

Flower Pots

Tube Craft FloraCart

The Portable Indoor Garden

Here is the answer to a long felt need for a compact, sturdy stand which would hold a large number of plants. Made of 1¼" diameter 16 guage steel tubing, this stand is light in weight, can be easily moved about and yet will hold more than 200 3" flower pots. It makes an attractive addition to any room, a fixture which every flower grower will want.

WILL GIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

Made to the recommended standards of successful growers, this stand is well constructed, welded and bolted to support heavy loads, and will give years of satisfactory service.

ADJUSTABLE SHELVES

The FloraCart is equipped with three galvanized steel water tight trays 19" x 50" with a 1" flange which permits watering plants from the bottom -- the preferred method. These shelves are adjustable to a maximum height of 21" between levels. Provision has also been made for attaching standard fluorescent fixtures if desired. (Picture above shows lights installed.)

Overall size of stand when assembled 52" long x 19" deep x 52" high. Gray (baked enamel) finish. Comes complete with four ball bearing, rubber tired, 4" diameter, swivel casters. Shipped knocked down with all necessary fittings, including bolts and nuts, for easy home assembly.

Price of Standard Unit complete F. O. B. Cleveland , Ohio $52.50.

SMALLER SIZE FLORACART

ALSO AVAILABLE

The FloraCart also comes in a Junior Size -- 30" high x 35" long x 15" deep, equipped with two galvanized steel water tight trays 15" x 33" with 1" flange and four 2" swivel casters. Can be used conveniently in front of any average window. This model is not designed to accomodate fluorescent lamps. Price complete, F. O. B. Cleveland, Ohio $29.75.

Remit by check or money order. Ohio customers add 3% Sales Tax.

Order direct from

TUBE CRAFT, Inc.

1950 W. 114th St. Cleveland 2, Ohio

DAYTON OHIO

At the January meeting of the Amethyst African Violet Club of Dayton, Ohio, the following officers were elected:

President,	Mrs. Paul Hook
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. B. A. Hall
Secretary,	Mrs. F. D. Frantz
Treasurer,	Mrs. William Weiss

This club, with a membership of twenty-five, was organized over two years ago. A show is being planned for spring, and although it will be a small showing, a good selection of color and varieties will be exhibited.

CHICAGO ILLINOIS

The Twilight Chapter of the African Violet Society of Chicago, Illinois was organized February 12, 1952, with a membership of twenty-seven.

The club meetings are held at the Norwegian Women's Society on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 P. M.

The following officers were elected:

President,	Edward P. Garry
1st Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Claude Greeley
2nd Vice-Pres.,	Miss Betty Boaz
Rec. Secy.,	Miss Pearl Heavey
Corres. Secy.,	Mrs. Kenneth Johnson
Treasurer,	Mrs. Bida V. Robbins
Historian,	Mrs. George Bernico

KENSINGTON CONNECTICUT

The second annual luncheon meeting of the Central Connecticut Saintpaulia Society was held November 13, 1951, at the Shuttle Meadow Club, Kensington,

Reports of officers and chairmen of committees were read, and four new members were welcomed.

The following officers were elected for two years:

President,	Mrs. Oliver Buckland
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Ralph Filson
Secretary,	Mrs. George Hallin
Treasurer,	Mrs. Raymond Fraprie

A member discussion of violets followed. The meeting closed and members gathered at the opportunity table to purchase plants and leaves donated by the members. Proceeds of sales go to the treasury of the club.

DENVER COLORADO

The Amethyst Chapter of the African Violet Society of Denver, Colorado, elected the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. George Meyers
Sec. Treas.,	Mrs. Leslie Hill

New Officers Long Beach Society

LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

The 1952 officers of the Long Beach African Violet Society were installed on Jan. 11, 1952, with Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer, past president as installing officer. Mrs. Thalheimer used as her theme "The Traveler" telling how this charming little plant was first found in East Africa and has since traveled all over the world.

The new officers are as follows:

President,	Mrs. Emily Moorefield
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Madeline Slocombe
Secretary,	Mrs. Margaret Slodek
Treasurer,	Mrs. Marian De Lapp

Mrs. Moorefield graciously pledged herself to carry on the activities of the Society to the best of her ability.

On January 17, Mrs. Irene Courson, jr-past president, held open house and a tea at her home honoring Alma Wright, editor of our Magazine, and Myrtle Radtke, past president of the African Violet Society of America. In spite of the "unusual" down-pour of rain, the affair was well attended and we all enjoyed Mrs. Wright's informal talk very much.

At the present writing, plans are being made for the annual Violet Show to be held in Long Beach this spring.

WINDSOR COLORADO

The African Violet Study group at Windsor, Colorado, will retain Mrs. R. A. Sanders as their leader.

OAK RIDGE TENNESSEE

The Oak Ridge African Violet Society, announces the following officers for 1952:

President,	Mrs. R. K. Browning
Vice-Pres.,	Mrs. Webster Gildersleve
Secretary,	Mrs. R. L. Jarry
Treasurer,	Mrs. John Price

Fischer . . Flowers

LINWOOD NEW JERSEY

presents

"The Three Superlatives"

☆ Most Elegant - Grand Award - A magnificent regal-blue double with huge flowers up to 1½" in diameter. An exceptionally fine plant, truly Monarch of the Doubles **$2.50**

☆ Most Unusual - Brussels Sprouts - "The Parrot Tulip of the Saintpaulia family" - a novelty alone in its class **$2.50**

☆ Most Exquisite - Aurora - Flowers are a delicate ruffled blue, subtly diffused with white. A plant of rare grace and character **$2.00**

"The Ballarinas"

Our fine new strain of fringed violets-brilliant successors to the "Fringettes"

☆ Minuet (mauve) **$2.00**
☆ Ballet (white) **2.00**
☆ Bolero (velvet blue) . . . **1.50**
☆ Polonaise (light blue) . . . **$1.50**
☆ Saraband (red lavender) . . **1.50**
☆ Carrousel (lavender blue) . **1.50**

"THE PROGRESS POT"

AN EXCITING NEW DISCOVERY. TESTED, PROVED AND USED IN OUR OWN GREENHOUSES.

CHECK THESE ADVANTAGES.

☆ Eliminates petiole rot
☆ Sterile -- no algae growth
☆ Light and unbreakable
☆ Attractive black finish
☆ Requires less water but drains well
☆ Inexpensive 2¼" pots 7½¢, 3" pots 10¢, minimum order 10 pots -- mailing 10c per dozen or each fraction.

Write today for free illustrative folder of our entire stock.

TERMS

Cash with orders, please - 10c per plant mailing on orders under $5.

FISCHER FLOWERS

DEPT. VM
LINWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Purity - -

First pure double white available.

Summer special

$1.50 each

Order direct from this ad.

ALL STAR BEGINNERS GROUP — 50¢ each

Blue Eyes, Redland, Double Russian, Pink, White, Jessie, Purple Prince.

GOOD STANDARD VARIETIES — 75¢ each

Rainbow Geneva	Lady Geneva	Tinted Lady
Red King	Fantasy	Purple Girl
Snow Prince	duPont Lavender Pink	Double Orchid
Violet Beauty	Blue Warrior	Double Neptune
Helen Wilson	Amazon Blue Eyes	Sailor Girl
Red Bi-Color	Amazon Purple Prince	Lavendar Girl Hybrid
Neptune	Blue Chard	

America, Mammoth Red — $1.00 each.

NEWEST VARIETIES — ALL DOUBLE FLOWERING — $1.25 each

Azure Beauty	Neptune	Velvet Bouquet
Dark Beauty	Navy Bouquet	Ruffles Bouquet
Sailor's Delight	Ruby Bouquet	
Double Orchid	Marine Bouquet	

Helen Wilson Bouquet, Wine Velvet, Painted Girl, Velvet Girl, Lacy Girl, Blue Heiress, Snow Girl, Christina, Geneva Star — $1.50 each.

ORDERS OF $10.00 OR OVER POSTPAID, UNDER ADD 50¢.

FREE! NEW SPRING CATALOG

Over 75 Select Varieties 50¢ up!

TINARI FLORAL GARDENS

Quantity price on request

BETHAYRES, PENNSYLVANIA